

Book Review—What do YOU think?

After reading a book that features animals, have your students write a review!

Curriculum Connection

Alberta Education Program of Studies:
English Language Arts (2000)

Grade 3

2.2 Respond to Texts

- summarize the main idea of individual oral, print and other media texts
- tell or write about favourite parts of oral, print and other media texts

Grade 4

2.2 Responding to Texts

Experience various texts

- make general evaluative statements about oral, print and other media texts
- develop own opinions based on ideas encountered in oral, print and other media texts

Grade 5

1.1 Discover and Explore

- use own experiences as a basis for exploring and expressing opinions and understanding

2.2 Respond to Texts

- express points of view about oral, print and other media texts

Grade 6

2.2 Respond to Texts

- explain own point of view about oral, print and other media texts
- identify or infer reasons for a character's actions or feelings
- comment on the credibility of characters and events in oral, print and other media texts, using evidence from personal experiences and the text

Materials

- Books featuring animals (see our [Recommended Reading](#) for a good selection)
- Pencils, paper, computer
- Art supplies (optional)

Activity

This activity can be modified to suit students of varying grades and levels.

Activity Options

1. Select a book as a class and read it together.
OR
2. Have students find their own book featuring an animal. Ask them to find a book that features an animal in a realistic light. See *A Realistic Portrayal of Animals in Literature* on the reverse side.

Animal Book Review (continued)

What do you think?

Ask students some or all of these questions to help with their book review

Book Review Discussion Questions:

1. Describe what the book is about in a couple of sentences? Who were the main characters?
2. From whose point of view is the story told?
3. Were animals portrayed in a realistic way? How do you know? (Discuss the questions in *A Realistic Portrayal of Animals in Literature.)
4. Do you think the characters in the book were believable?(Use personal experiences to explain your answer)
5. Could you relate to any of the characters? How so?
6. What did you like the most about the book? What did you like the least?
7. Did you have a favorite quote from the book? If so, what was it?
8. Did you learn anything new by reading the book?
9. Would you recommend this book? Why or why not?

Write a Review

Students can write a few paragraphs addressing some of the discussion questions. Send their reviews to us, and we may feature them on our website!

A Realistic Portrayal of Animals in Literature

- Does the story show dogs or cats who roam or travel without human supervision? *It is unrealistic to expect domestic animals to be able to survive on their own with the same degree of health as those raised as pets. In fact, domestic animals who are abandoned to the wild are a big problem in many parts of Alberta.*
- Does the book glorify the birth or puppies or kittens? *There is a severe pet overpopulation problem, therefore, spaying and neutering is an important part of responsible pet ownership.*
- Does the story portray animals with human characteristics? Books in which animals are presented anthropomorphically (ie: animals that talk, wear clothes, dance, serve tea) should be obvious that it is an imaginary story.
- Does it show wild animals as pets? *Stories about people who adopt and raise wild animals can present false expectations in young people. Also, situations in which people feed or interact with wild mammals present dangers to both people and animals.*

A book not meeting all the above criteria may still be suitable for classroom use, as long as the points above are discussed with the students.