

kind NewsTM JR.

Teacher Guide

SEPT/OCT 2018

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES K-2

Welcome back to school! We bounce into the school year with a feature on games animals play and how to recognize playful animal behavior. This skill is vital not only for helping students analyze situations to make safe choices around animals, but also for developing empathy and appreciating others' perspectives. This issue also features an interview with MUTTS cartoonist Patrick McDonnell, an introduction to the hero Raja from the graphic novel and game app for kids, *The Restricted Adventures of Raja*, and questions straight from our Junior Advisory Board to inspire curiosity about animal biology and habitats.

Kind News, Jr. aligns with Common Core standards as well as the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and the Core Competencies for social and emotional learning (SEL) as identified by CASEL (the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning). *Kind News, Jr.* helps students learn about animals, relate what they learn to their own lives, and think critically about what it means to be kind to animals and people.

A PUBLICATION OF



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To learn about our educational program for students or groups ages K-6 **visit our website at FWACC.ORG.**



Prince William SPCA is Celebrating 10 years of sponsoring *Kind News* for classrooms in Prince William County, Manassas Park, and Manassas, Virginia.



Spay Neuter Network's North Texas Education Initiative alleviates pet overpopulation by educating future pet owners about responsible pet ownership. Learn more at www.spayneuternet.org

FLIP OVER!

Turn the page for activities to use in your classroom that align to standards.

COMMON CORE AND NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS ALIGNED ACTIVITIES



Kindergarten: K-ESS3-1. Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants or animals (including humans) and the places they live.

After Reading “Saving Hank,” ask students what people and animals need to have in the places they live in order to survive (food, space, protection from other creatures who may harm them). What did Hank need to live that he was not getting in the junkyard? What does he now have in his new environment that helps him? Then, ask them to think about where they live and how it helps them

survive and feel happy. Optional: Ask students to fold a piece of paper in half. On one side, draw a picture of themselves in their living environment with the things they need to survive and feel happy. On the other side draw a pet in the same environment with the things they need to survive and feel happy.

First grade CCSS.RI.1.5 Know and use various text features (e.g., headings, tables of contents, glossaries, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information in a text.

Before reading the magazine, show students the cover of *Kind News, Jr.* and ask them to predict what it will be about based on the cover. What does it look like the kitten is doing? What words do they see? Then, have them open to the first page and look at the “Inside this Issue” section. On what page will they find out more about the cover topic (play)? Where can they read about a rescue? A hero? Ask students to flip through the pages and look for headings, pictures, and bolded words, and share their predictions about what the sections will be about based on those features. Choose an article to read as a class to see whether students’ predictions were correct. To extend the activity, ask students what other text features they can find that haven’t been identified yet and explain how they help them find important information and facts within the text.

Second grade CCSS.L.2.3 Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening; CCSS.L.2.3.A Compare formal and informal uses of English.

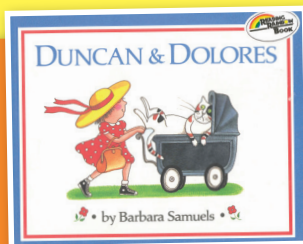
After reading “Meet Raja,” ask students what a hero is. Ask them the question at the end of the article: what traits do they think heroes have? Make a list on the board or chart paper. Go over the features of a letter (greeting, body, closing) and discuss how this kind of formal writing is different than informal writing or conversation. Then ask them to think about who is a hero in their own life and write a thank-you letter to that person that includes a greeting, one reason they believe the person is a hero, why they are grateful to them, and a closing. You may wish to use the example letter to Raja on the Answer Key in the back as an example. Encourage them to include descriptive vocabulary and details. Ask students to proofread each other’s letters for proper use of language and writing conventions before sending or delivering them.

BOOK NOOK

Duncan & Dolores

Written and illustrated by Barbara Samuels

Recommended for ages 4-8



Even though Dolores is only four years old and quite a handful herself, she really wants a cat. When she and her sister adopt Duncan, who is also four years old, Dolores learns that cats may not want to play the same games as little girls and that making friends with a cat requires patience, but the rewards of a cat’s company are worth the wait.

Duncan & Dolores is part of the RedRover Readers program. For more book ideas or to learn about our online professional development training that enhances literacy skills and aligns with social and emotional learning core competencies, visit RedRover.org/Readers.





ANSWER KEY



Critter Clues FROM PAGE 7

Our mystery critter is a **COMMON GARTER SNAKE**. 

Garter snakes are the most widespread snakes in the world, found in most regions of the U.S. and Canada. 

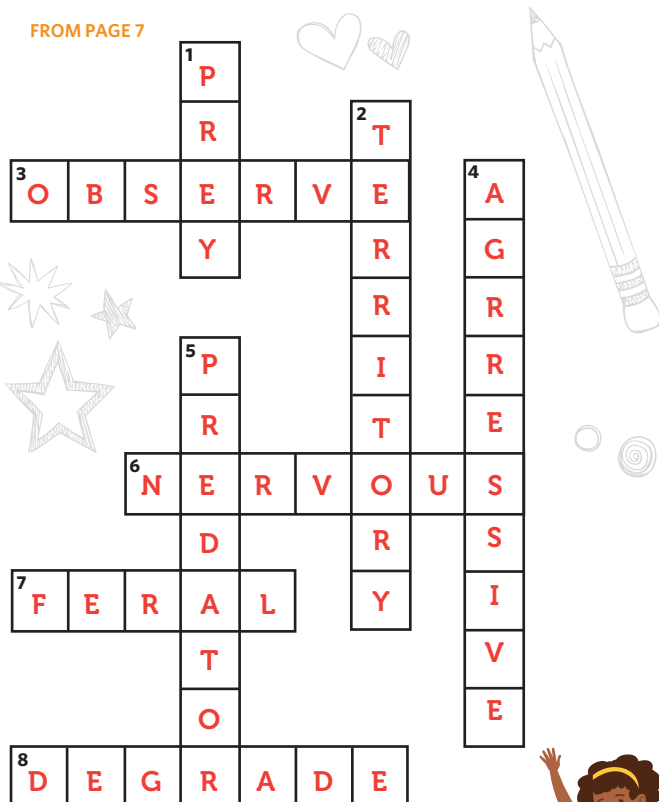
The best advice for children encountering garters in their backyards and parks? As with all wild animals, they should follow the three L's: Look, Listen, and Leave them alone.

Encourage students to observe the silent, slithering predator whose wide-ranging diet includes earthworms, amphibians, slugs, insects, and small fish. The snake's stripes can be yellow, blue, green, brown, or white. A garter snake will probably slither off after seeing a human, but will bite if threatened.

 Threats to garter snakes include loss of habitat, collection by the pet trade, and water pollution and pesticides that can poison the snakes themselves as well as the amphibians they eat. Because of these factors, the prized San Francisco Garter Snake is endangered. Known as the most beautiful snake in America, the species has a unique light turquoise-blue belly and bold brown/orange markings. 

How can students and their families help the Common Garter? They can say no to acquiring them as pets, avoid chemicals in their yards, and provide habitat like loose rock piles, old tree stumps, brush, and wood piles. We can all play a part in ensuring that these successful snakes keep on slithering for generations to come!

FROM PAGE 7



WRITE A THANK YOU LETTER TO A HERO

Hi *[Name of Hero/Person or Animal You Admire]*,

Thank you for *[what your hero did that you admire or are thankful for]*. *[Sentence or two about why what your hero did was meaningful to you.]* *[Optional: A sentence praising the hero for their kindness or generosity.]*

[Optional: Any personal final statement.]

[Closing],
[Your Name]

EXAMPLE LETTER:

Hi *Raja!*

Thank you for *coming to Earth to help A.J.*

It means a lot to me that people take a stand for what they believe in and help others even if it means going against someone else's idea or rule.

I think you are very brave and kind.

Sincerely,





**...AND MORE
ONLINE!**

KindNews.org

Find lesson plans and more activities for your students, plus ideas for how students can help animals in your community. Subscribe to the magazine at home or learn how you can bring *Kind News, Jr.* to more classrooms.

RedRover.org/KindNewsFAQ

Find answers to your questions about subscribing to *Kind News, Jr.*

RedRover.org/Readers

Learn about the RedRover Readers online social and emotional learning training for teachers. The RedRover Readers program uses stories and discussion strategies to help students practice the skills needed for empathy and other core competencies identified by CASEL.



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***Kind News, Jr.* helps students learn about animals and think critically about their responsibilities towards the wellbeing of others, while practicing skills necessary for academic success.** The magazine encourages empathy and critical thinking in students and motivates students to take action to improve the lives of animals. *Kind News, Jr.* uses articles and short features to introduce issues affecting animals, how to understand animal behavior and how to care for pets. There are questions built into articles throughout the magazine. These questions can be used to guide whole- or small-group discussions with your students.

SUBSCRIPTION QUESTION?

We will be happy to help you. Please contact:

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