

kind News™

Teacher Guide

NOV/DEC 2018

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 3-6

In honor of Thanksgiving, we'd like to thank you for all you do to educate students and inspire them to be compassionate citizens. In this issue, we explore an important part of perspective-taking: how to tell when an animal is in pain. We feature two special stories of people who go out of their way for animals. In "The Amazing World," we take a look at how one fascinating canid, the Arctic Fox, has adapted to survive in its harsh habitat. For more on adaptations, visit kids.kiddle.co/Adaptation.



► Did you know the apps "Raja Book 1" and "Raja Book 2" can be projected in the classroom for a fun discussion on understanding emotions in 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



Third grade: NGSS 3-LS3-2: Use evidence to support the explanation that traits can be influenced by the environment. After reading “The Amazing World: Surviving Winter,” discuss what kind of habitat the Arctic is. What traits do Arctic Foxes have that allow them to survive here? What other creatures do they know of that can survive there not already mentioned in the article (such as seals or moose)? What adaptations have these creatures developed that allow their survival in such a harsh climate? For a cool website on the Arctic, visit coolantarctica.com. After completing the activity, ask students to think about what traits humans have that have allowed us to survive in our environment. Choose one animal and create a chart similar to the one below or ask students to do so with the animal of their choice.

ARCTIC ANIMAL	ADAPTATION/ TRAIT	HOW IT HELPS THEM
Moose	Keen sense of smell	Find food beneath the snow
	Thick fur coat	Helps them stay warm in the cold climate
	Long legs that rotate	Help move through snow and dig for food under the snow

Fourth grade: NGSS 4-LS1-2: Use a model to describe that animals receive different types of information through their senses, process the information in their brain, and respond to the information in different ways. After reading the article, “Can You Tell If an Animal Is in Pain?” discuss why some animals keep their pain to themselves. Explain that when an animal gets hurt, they are receiving information through their senses (i.e. part of the body that is hurt, such as a toe or a paw) which sends signals to their brain to cause their response. Based on what they have learned in the article and discussed, have students predict how different animals they know or research would most likely respond to pain. Then ask them to think about a time a person or an animal they knew was in pain. What signs helped them recognize the pain? Ask students how they would like people to respond to them when they are in pain and note any similarities or differences in their responses.

Fifth grade: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.3.D: Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely. After reading “Meet IC,” ask students whether they could imagine what IC was like using just the text. What words and phrases allow them to picture what IC used to look like and her behavior when she met Susan? (Examples may include “thin,” “in need of grooming,” “hope in her eyes,” “magical,” “nuzzles, licks, and head rubs as if she’d known me her whole life.”) How does this descriptive language help them understand who IC is? Then, ask students to think of a time they have met someone they are very close to, such as a friend or pet. What do they remember about the experience? Ask students to make a list of descriptive words or phrases that could help someone who has never met the person or animal imagine them. If time permits, you may also wish to have students write 2-3 paragraphs about meeting that special person or animal using their descriptive phrases.

Sixth Grade: NGSS MS-ESS3-5. Ask questions to clarify evidence of the factors that have caused the rise in global temperatures over the past century. After reading “The Amazing World: Surviving Winter,” discuss why it is a problem for Arctic Foxes that the warming climate causes rodent burrows to collapse. How do students predict this will affect Arctic Foxes over time? What other ecosystems besides the Arctic can they think of that have been impacted by climate change, and what factors do they know of that are causing it? Ask students to research in small groups the human activities and natural processes (such as fossil fuel combustion or volcanic activity) that have contributed to climate change. You may wish to assign the groups different factors to focus on. After presenting their findings, what do they think they can do to help this problem?



ANSWER KEY

Critter Clues FROM PAGE 7



Our mystery critter is the GREAT HORNED OWL!

It gets its name from the unique tufts of feathers on the top of its head that resemble horns, called “plumicorns.” Also known as the “hoot owl” because of its easily distinguishable low-pitched call, the Great Horned Owl is extremely adaptable and can live anywhere from the Arctic to South America. This makes it the most widely distributed owl in North and South America. 🦉

Great Horned Owl populations have declined over the last 50 years, although they are not considered a threatened species. They were hunted until the practice was stopped in the mid-twentieth century, but they are sometimes still hunted illegally. They are also at-risk for poisoning from pesticides or other harmful substances in their prey.

🦉 Great Horned Owls prey on a wide variety of animals, from tiny rodents and scorpions to hares to geese, rabbits, other raptors, and even skunks! They mate for life and usually raise their young in the abandoned nests of other birds.

Kids interested in Great Horned Owls may want to try building a nest box to attract a breeding pair, especially if you live in an area where their numbers are on the decline. Nesting periods vary depending on region, so it is important to find out the best time of year in your area to put up a box. 🦉 Go to nestbox.org to learn about all kinds of birds that could benefit from a nest box in your area. For more ideas follow *Kind News* on Facebook or “RedRoverorg” on Pinterest.

BOOK NOOK

Hoot

Written by Carl Hiaasen

A challenging read for older kids that delves into bullying and standing up for what you think is right.

Recommended for ages 10+

Excerpt taken from www.carlhiaasen.com:

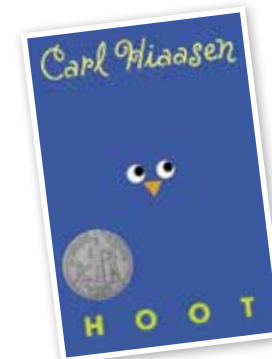
“Roy Eberhardt is the new kid—again. This time around it’s Trace Middle School in humid Coconut Grove, Florida. But it’s still the same old routine: table by himself at lunch, no real friends, and thick-headed bullies like Dana Matherson pushing him around....In his first novel for a younger audience, Carl Hiaasen (*Basket Case*, etc.) plunges readers right into the middle of an ecological mystery, made up of endangered miniature owls, the Mother Paula’s All-American Pancake House scheduled to be built over their burrows, and the owls’ unlikely allies—three middle school kids determined to beat the screwed-up adult system. Hiaasen’s tongue is firmly in cheek as he successfully cuts his slapstick sense of humor down to kid-size. Sure to be a hoot, er, hit with middle school mystery fans.”



FROM PAGE 2

Belle is likely feeling both nervous (body slightly hunched and tail down) and interested/curious/eager (eyes alert and fixed on the sandwich she smells).

To learn about more ways to support empathy development, visit RedRover.org/Readers.





**...AND MORE
ONLINE!**

KindNews.org

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

RedRover.org/KindNewsFAQ

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

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 helps students learn about animals and think critically about their responsibilities towards the wellbeing of others.

The magazine encourages empathy and critical thinking in students and motivates students to take action to improve the lives of animals. *Kind News* 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:

KindNews@icnfull.com

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KIND NEWS

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