Parent Guide

Teaching kindness while helping to instill good reading habits in children.

KIND TIME

Happy Spring! In this issue we’ll learn about the myth of “teacup” pigs and what pet pigs need to be happy and healthy. We’ll meet an amazing young woman who is making a difference for bunnies, and check in with two rescued tigers.* We’ll also explore some cool science facts about composting and learn how dog and cat tongues are different.

* We are sad to learn that one of the tigers, Misty, passed away in January.

BOOK NOOK

The True Adventures of Esther the Wonder Pig
Written by Steve Jenkins, Derek Walter, and Caprice Crane, Illustrated by Cori Doerrfeld
Recommended for ages 6-9
When Steve and Derek adopted a mini pig named Esther, they had no idea that she would turn out to be not-so-mini after all. When her new family saw just how big and wonderful Esther really was, they fell in love — and their lives changed forever. Esther would soon grow too large for her bed and their small apartment. She got into everything, including her neighbor’s tasty garden. So the whole family moved from a small apartment to a big farm, where Esther and her animal friends could fit happily (and get into a little less mischief). Eventually, that farm would become the Happily Esther After animal sanctuary, home to rescued animals of all kinds.

Oliver's Big Problem
Written by Stephanie Itle-Clark, Illustrated by Jessie Miller
Recommended for ages 4-7
Oliver is one happy pig with a big personality! He loves his home, his friends, and the healthy food and exercise he gets at the farm. But Oliver did not always live on the farm. His first home was far too small! Discover how he ended up at the farm and get to know Oliver in the first of the Farm Tales Series written just for early readers in grades Pre-K-2. The book text incorporates early sight words as well as discussion questions for parents and educators to support growth in critical thinking and empathy for others.

Did you know?

▸ Your local or school library can get a FREE single-copy subscription simply by visiting KindNews.org/subscribehome and entering promo code LIBFREE18!
Critter Clues FROM PAGE 6

Our mystery critter is the wood duck.

If you visit your local park, chances are you’ve seen wood ducks! They’re easily recognizable due to the distinct differences between the male and female bodies. The male’s green head and markings help him attract a mate, while the female’s brown and gray feathers help her blend in with her surroundings.

Wood ducks get their name from being “cavity-nesters,” nesting in tree cavities near water. Due to forest loss and being hunted, the wood duck almost became extinct around the turn of the 19th century. The population began to bounce back in the mid 1900s, after the Migratory Bird Treaty Act was passed. People also began building nest boxes to help mitigate the loss of the wood duck’s habitat.

Although we often see people feeding bread to wood ducks, this is a harmful practice. Bread is like junk food for ducks — it has very little nutritional value. When ducks get used to eating bread, they are less likely to forage for healthy food themselves. This can also cause a deformity called “angel wing,” a condition that results in ducks losing their flying abilities. When bread is easily available, it can increase duck populations drastically, which means there is less healthy food to go around. It’s best to allow ducks to stick to their natural diet.

What can you do to help wood ducks? Educate others about why ducks shouldn’t be given bread. If you have the space, consider building a nesting box. To learn how, visit nwf.org and search “duck nesting box.”

Compost Puzzle FROM PAGE 7

RECYCLE

COMPOST

Where’s Raja?
Raja is hiding on page 8!

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