

STUDENTS: These four stories paint a picture of how animals act and feel. There are many times when people are heroes, cry for those they miss, and call each other names or laugh at their own jokes. Aren't there also times when animals do the same?

Read the next four stories, and think about how the animals felt. Have you ever felt the same way? At the end of each story, write down how you think the animals were feeling in these stories. Then, follow your teacher's instructions to write about a time when you felt the way these animals did and how those feelings made you act.

TEACHERS: These four adapted stories illustrate how animals experience feelings and act on them the same way humans do. Ask the students to read the stories in small groups or read them as a class. Discuss the way animals must have been feeling in the stories and why they acted the way they did. Then, ask the students to tell about times when they have had similar feelings and how they acted.

For each story, have the students write one to three memories of having felt the way the animals in these stories did. Ask them to pick their favorite or most interesting memory and to write a paragraph telling about the memory and explaining why their behavior was similar to that of the animal(s). These stories can be compiled into a wonderful classroom book. The students may want to contribute more than one memory.

This extension of **Share the World** can be used as a single writing activity or as a springboard to a related reading unit. If you wish to make it a complete unit, begin the activity by telling the students that they will be reading and learning about animals. After the activity above, allow students to select a book for a book report from the bibliography provided at the end of this unit. Assign an oral report in which the students tell what the book was about and read aloud one short passage that illustrates an animal showing his or her feelings. Students might also enjoy sharing their memory paragraphs in this format.



Animals Save Lives!

Priscilla, a 2-month-old piglet, saves a young boy from drowning.

Adapted from *Real Animal Heroes*, by Paul Drew Stevens. Chico, Calif.: Sharp & Dunnigan, 1989.

One hot July day in 1984, Carol Burk and her 11-year-old son, Anthony, went swimming in Texas' Lake Somerville. They were joined by Priscilla, a 22-pound, 2-month-old piglet they had raised. Priscilla loved the water and was a great swimmer, but Anthony, a mentally handicapped child, was not.

For hours, Anthony, his mother, and Priscilla played hide-and-seek in the shallow waters. Finally, Anthony tired and his mom turned to get ready to leave. When she turned back, Anthony was far out in the water, struggling. She started swimming toward him, and so did Priscilla. Despite being very tired from swimming all day, the little pig reached Anthony first. He grabbed for her halter and leash. In his panic he pulled too hard and went under, this time taking Priscilla with him!

Now both Anthony and Priscilla were drowning and he weighed almost four times more than she did. Priscilla struggled to get to the surface of the water. Finally, with enormous effort, she succeeded. With Anthony clinging to her small body, Priscilla swam back to shore.

Priscilla, like all pigs, had a very long memory. Years after the rescue, she still became upset whenever she saw young children playing near the water.

For her heroism, Priscilla was honored with a "Priscilla the Pig" Day in Houston, Texas.

Talk to the Animals!

Koko is a gorilla who learned American Sign Language and taught her human family about gorillas and their feelings.

Adapted from *Animals Who Have Won Our Hearts*, by Jean Craighead George. New York: HarperCollins, 1994.

Koko learned to sign hundreds of words! When she first signed the word for “food” to Francine Patterson, the woman who took care of her, and Francine gave her food, Koko was so happy that she put a bucket over her head and ran around wildly.

Koko could easily learn the words for things she liked but was not as eager to learn words for things she didn’t. It took her two months to learn the word for “egg,” which she hated, and only one minute to learn “berry,” which she loved.

Koko has a great sense of humor. When asked the color of her white towel over and over until she was very bored, she signed, “Red.” When asked twice again, she replied, “Red,” then carefully picked a tiny speck of red lint off her towel. She laughed and again said, “Red.”

Koko recognizes herself in the mirror, carefully cleans her room, and plays with her companion animals. She was so sad when her cat died that she was allowed to choose another kitten. She took care of her kitten companion with gentleness and love.

Koko also told people what and whom she didn’t like. When she was really angry with someone, she would call the person a “rotten toilet.” She had a younger gorilla friend named Mike, whom she would call “Mike nut” when she felt jealous. One of her teachers, Ron Cohn, punished her when she misbehaved. She called him “stupid devil devilhead.”

Eventually Francine Patterson realized that gorillas like Koko and Mike should live where they can be their natural gorilla selves. They all moved out to the country where Koko and Mike could climb fruit trees

and play in a huge outside area.

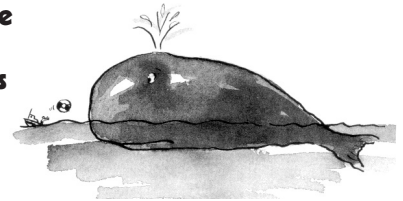
Koko signed her thoughts about herself and her species when she said, “Fine animal gorilla.”

DID YOU ALSO KNOW?

- **Prairie dogs have individual calls, which scientists have called “one of the most complex animal languages ever studied in the wild.” When prairie dogs see a person and give the alarm, they are not just crying, “Danger!” but might actually be saying, “Tall, dark man!”**

(Montgomery Journal, Douglas Birch, Oct. 27, 1991)

- **All humpback whales in a local area sing the same songs; the small populations all have their own stories to tell.**



- **When electric fish send out their signals to other fish, they can’t hear themselves talk!** *(Animal Behavior, Jim Halliday, ed., 1994)*

Animals Are Sad When Others Die!

Lobo was a wolf who lived in America from 1889 to 1894. Many wolf-hunters tried to kill him, but they never could. He was so smart and strong that people called him “the king.” In this part of the story, hunters finally catch and kill Blanca, Lobo’s mate.

Adapted from *Lobo the Wolf: King of Currumpaw*, by Ernest Thompson Seton. Seattle: Storytellers Ink, 1991.

In a canyon where Lobo was often seen, the hunters placed a dead cow and her cut-off head as bait. They surrounded the body and head with steel-jaw traps and hoped Lobo and his pack would try to eat the cow or her head and be caught. Later, when the trappers came to check the trap, they found one small wolf had taken the cow’s head and had been caught by one of the traps. The wolf’s footprints showed that she was trying to run away with the head.

The hunters followed the wolf down a trail. They had gone about a mile when they saw her. She was a white female they knew as Blanca, Lobo’s mate. Blanca tried so hard to get away from the men that she was able to outrun all the trappers, even though she was carrying a 50-pound cow’s head and had a steel-jaw trap on one of her legs. But the hunters finally caught up with her when the horns on the cow’s head got caught in the rocks. Blanca was stuck.

Blanca knew she was cornered. Turning to fight, she cried out for help, sending a long howl out over the canyon. The hunters heard the responding cry of the king, Lobo. That was her last cry, for now the trappers had surrounded her. Although she fought hard to live, the hunters outnumbered her, and she was killed.

While the hunters killed Blanca and rode home with her body, they heard Lobo’s cries as he searched for Blanca. He must have known he could not save her by staying with her. The trappers had guns, and Lobo’s whole family had been killed by guns. All that day, the trappers heard him howling.

Seton finally said to the other trappers, “Now, indeed, I truly know that Blanca was his mate.”

As night fell, Lobo followed the trappers, his crying sounding nearer. There was a sound of sorrow in his cry. It wasn’t a loud, angry howl, but a long, sad wail. “Blanca! Blanca!” Lobo seemed to cry.

DID YOU ALSO KNOW?

- **Aunt Gigi, an older chimpanzee with no children, adopted two orphan chimpanzees whose parents had been killed!** (*The Great Ape Project*, Paola Cavalieri & Peter Singer, eds., 1993)
- **Elephants often try to save dying relatives by keeping them from falling down or feeding them. When their relatives do die, the elephants grieve and sometimes even bury them!** (*When Elephants Weep: The Emotional Lives of Animals*, Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson & Susan McCarthy, 1995)
- **Geese mate for life and mourn when their mates are killed. Geese have also been known to feed their blind geese companions!** (*The Souls of Animals*, Gary Kowalski, 1991)



Animals Are Heroes!

Tang, a Newfoundland dog, saved 92 people from a sinking ship in a horrible storm.

Adapted from *Dog Heroes*, by Tim Jones. Seattle: Epicenter Press, 1995.

During a snowstorm in December 1919, a ship called the *Ethie* crashed into rocks off the shore of Newfoundland, Canada. Ninety-three people were trapped on the ship as the ocean pounded it into the rocks. The crew tried to throw one of the ship's ropes to people on the beach, but they missed. Then one of the sailors took the rope and jumped into the ocean. He tried to swim to the beach with the rope, but he was carried out to sea and never seen again.

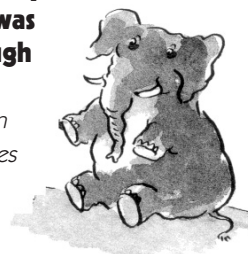
Then the ship's captain saw Tang, a Newfoundland who lived aboard the *Ethie*. The captain knew Tang was their last hope. He gave the rope to Tang. With the rope in his teeth, the dog jumped into the sea and swam for land. In the huge waves and strong winds, it must have been hard for Tang to swim—the undertow tried to drag him out to sea and the water rushed into his eyes and ears. But he swam on until he reached the shore. People on the beach ran into the water to pull Tang onto dry land. They took the rope from his mouth and tied it to something strong. The rope was used to bring the people on the sinking ship to land. All 92 people on the *Ethie* were saved.

History books don't say what Tang did once he'd

made it to land, but it isn't hard to imagine the excited dog looking for his human companion, greeting every person that came from the ship. Lloyd's of London, the famous insurance company, gave Tang a medal for bravery, which he wore for the rest of his life.

DID YOU ALSO KNOW?

- **A dog and a duck once led a mother to her drowning son!** (*Real Animal Heroes*, Paul Drew Stevens, 1989)
- **A wildlife observer once saw an elephant try over and over to rescue a baby rhinoceros from where she was stuck in the mud, even though the mother rhinoceros kept charging the elephant!** (*When Elephants Weep: The Emotional Lives of Animals*, Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson & Susan McCarthy, 1995)



SUGGESTED READING ON ANIMALS

Beautiful Joe by Marshall Saunders, retold by Quinn Currie. Seattle: Storytellers Ink, 1990.

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell. New York: Scholastic Books, 1877.

The Bollo Caper by Art Buchwald. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1983.

Cat Stories by James Herriot. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1994.

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White. New York: Harper, 1952.

The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses by Paul Goble. New York: Bradbury Press, 1978.

Hunter and His Dog by Brian Wildsmith. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1989.

In Hawk, I'm Your Brother by Byrd Baylor. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976.

Julie of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George. New York: HarperCollins Press, 1974.

Perfect the Pig by Susan Jeschke. New York: Scholastic Books, 1980.

Pets Without Homes by Caroline Arnold. New York: Ticknor & Fields, 1983.

Sandy of Laguna by Joseph Bell. Seattle: Storytellers Ink, 1992.

The Secret of NIMH by Robert O'Brien. New York: Scholastic Books, 1982.

That Quail, Robert by Margaret Stanger. New York: HarperPerennial, 1966.

William's Story by Debra Duel. Seattle: Storytellers Ink, 1992.