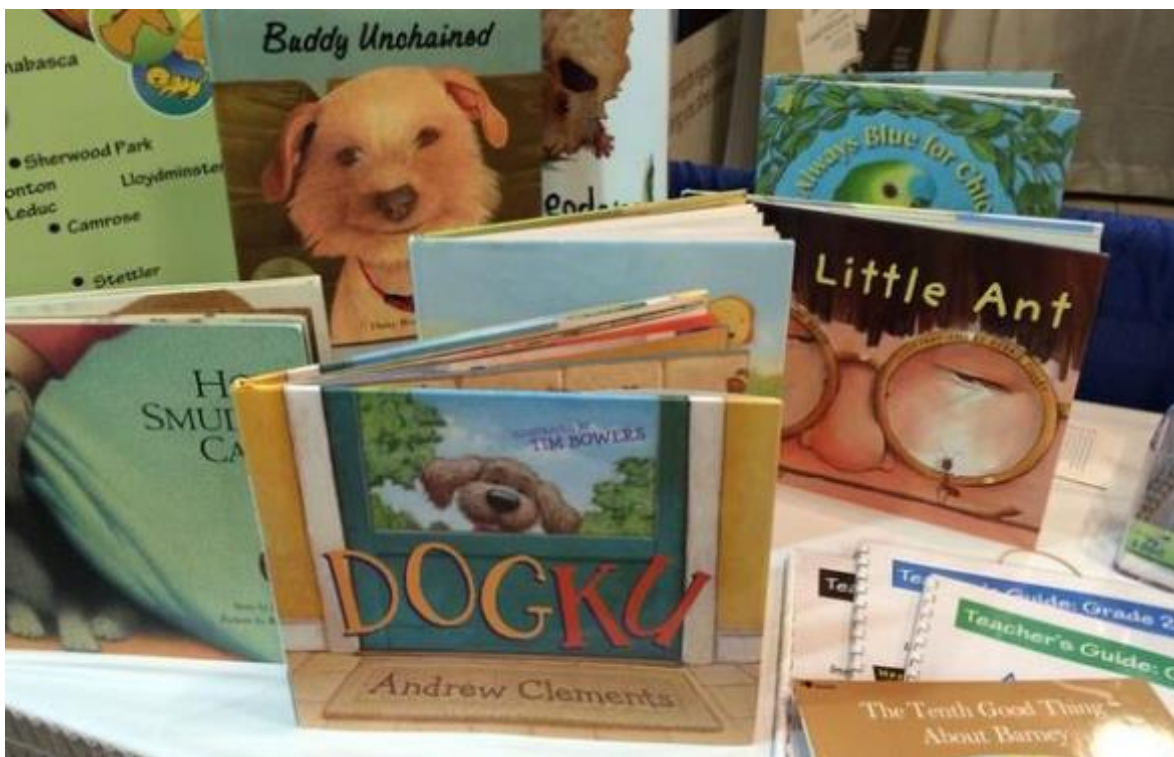



Animal Tales: Books that Build Compassion



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Please note the online list is constantly being updated at everylivingthing.ca/books

indicates Canadian author or setting

AnimalTales 1 ... Book is included in the AnimalTales program for the indicated grades – see everylivingthing.ca/animaltales for more information.

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How Can Stories Promote Empathy & Compassion?

Literature and Character Building

Literature can be a powerful tool and literary characters powerful influences for students developing and shaping their moral code. Stories engage our imagination, allowing us to identify with characters and assume their actions. Effective character education, including humane education, goes beyond simply reading humane-themed stories. Students who engage in reflection, discussion and analysis are more likely to understand and apply values in a positive way.

What other ways can stories be useful?

Literature can help students deal with issues or problems they will inevitably encounter as they mature and grow. Topics such as dealing with grief, responding to bullying, overcoming fears, developing positive relationships, and understanding and appreciating differences – to name a few – are recurring themes in children’s stories. Students realize that they are not alone in encountering problems and can learn positive ways of dealing with these issues.

Why books about animals?

Children seem to have a natural affinity for animals, so building on their compassion for animals is a good starting point for increasing empathy towards people as well. Advertisers have long recognized the universal appeal of animals; feelings toward animals are generally devoid of negative stereotyping and association with interpersonal rivalries. A student, for example, may find it hard to deal with other children who resemble someone who had bullied them, but may find it easier to empathize with a dog who has been treated cruelly and reacts against people. This understanding can then be expanded to include people as well.

Stories dealing with animals help take readers out of themselves and make the problems encountered seem less overwhelming. Children feel free to imagine their relationship with an animal that doesn’t judge them based on their appearance, clothing, etc. This makes it easier to engage and encourages more reading, thus developing important literacy skills.

The AnimalTales book loan program

AnimalTales is a book program created for Alberta Elementary teachers who want to encourage their students to be more compassionate and develop greater reverence for living things. Each grade level contains four books, an accompanying activity guide (tied to the Alberta Program of Studies), student activity sheets and group activity materials. Teachers will have approximately three weeks to use the materials.

Teachers who complete the program will have their class added to the **Kindness Map** and receive a class set of bookmarks

This program is **completely free** to all Alberta teachers **to borrow**.

Learn more and request your AnimalTales kit at everylivingthing.ca/animaltales .



Choosing Books about Animals

There are many great books about animals – both modern and classic – that not only engage young readers, but also help them develop positive character traits. Children seem to have a natural affinity for animals, and stories about animals can help motivate even the most reluctant reader.

Animals are represented in many different ways in novels, and attitudes towards humane treatment of animals have changed over the years. The attitudes reflected in books can influence children’s attitudes toward – and relationships with – other creatures and the natural world. A teacher is well-advised to choose books wisely, and to include necessary discussion and background information wherever appropriate.

Fairy tale or realistic portrait?

Many young children’s first encounters with animals in fiction are through nursery rhymes, fables and fairy tales. While these make for fascinating stories for very young children, it is assumed that at some point children will learn to distinguish between real and imaginary depictions of animals. This is not such a straightforward distinction in literature, as many stories include realistic-appearing animals in unrealistic situations. Stray animals that travel across vast distances (often performing heroic acts in the process) glorify the life of a stray animal that in reality is harsh, dangerous and short. Animals that seem to possess natural intelligence lead to an inadequate understanding of the work needed to train and care for animals.

Some fictional pieces change the nature of animal characters within the story, to add dramatic effect. This can result in the reader relating to the animal as a person, only to see the lead character suffer a fate that, while normal for animals, is unheard of for people.

Considerations for choosing fiction books

In selecting books, the following points can help guide the selection of a book promoting humane values:

- Does the story depict an appropriate human/animal relationship? While animals can help people in certain ways, domestic animals rely on humans to provide for their needs.
- Does the book glorify the birth of puppies or kittens, or promote buying pets from a pet store? There is a severe pet overpopulation problem that is exacerbated by stores selling dogs and cats – some of which come from dirty, inhumane puppy mills.
- If the story depicts animals with human characteristics, make sure the students understand it’s a fable. While abilities such as talking, wearing clothes, voting, etc., are usually obvious, others may be more subtle.
- Are wild animals realistically portrayed? Situations in which people feed or “tame” wild animals present dangers to both people and animals.

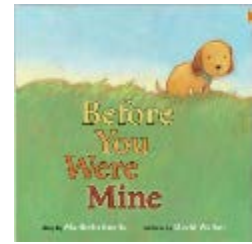
The following books are recommended as portraying animals in situations that will help to shape humane values. It is not an exhaustive list; check out everylivingthing.ca/books, where more titles are added regularly.

Picture Books

Before You Were Mine by Maribeth Boelts, 2007

AnimalTales 1

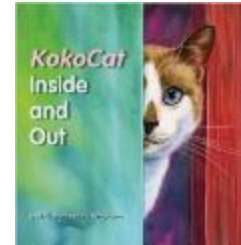
A young boy wonders what his dog's life was like before he was adopted from an animal shelter. Did he have a name and family who loved him? How long had he been alone? This heartwarming story shows how adopting an animal can bring happiness and comfort to a pet as well as the new owner.



KokoCat, Inside and Out by Lynda Graham-Barber, 2012

AnimalTales 1

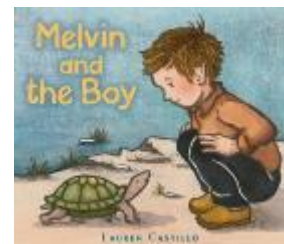
This book presents a vivid picture of the comfort and security of an indoor cat, contrasted with the frightening, life-threatening dangers faced outdoors. It conveys an important message without preaching, in a manner that will appeal to all ages of cat lovers as well as to the uninitiated.



Melvin and the Boy by Lauren Castillo, 2011

AnimalTales 1

When a little boy sees a turtle basking in the sun at the park, he thinks he's found the perfect pet. But when they get home, the boy soon discovers that the only time the turtle comes out of his shell is at bath time. Is it possible that the turtle would be happiest back in the pond? After all, it's always bath time there!



Max Talks to Me by Claire Buchwald, 2008

AnimalTales 1, 2

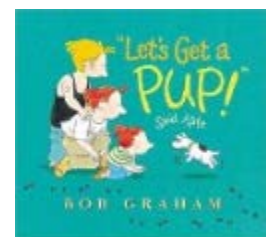
This story of love and devotion between a young boy, Alex, and his beloved dog Max. The story captures the caring behaviours and trust that foster a rich relationship between a child and his pet.



"Let's Get a Pup!" Said Kate by Bob Graham, 2001

AnimalTales 2

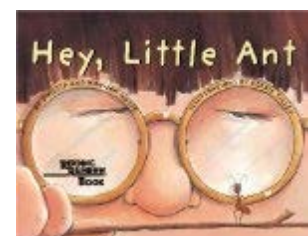
When Kate and her parents go to the animal shelter to adopt a puppy, it's love at first sight – twice! The young family decides that two dogs are better than one – especially when one is wee and bouncy, and the other "old and gray and broad as a table." A fun way to introduce the joys – and struggles – of pet ownership.



Hey, Little Ant by Phillip and Hannah Hoose, 1999

AnimalTales 2

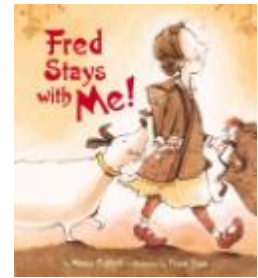
This parable about mercy and empathy asks readers to look at life from an insect's point of view. A boy contemplates squishing an ant who pleads with the boy to spare him. A great conversation starter about how we and animals (even insects) are alike and different, and how peer pressure can lead to bullying. Can be performed as a song (sheet music is appended).



Fred Stays with Me!
by Nancy Coffelt, 2007

AnimalTales 2

The young narrator sometimes lives with her mom, sometimes with her dad. Her dog Fred is one of the constants in her life. When Fred's behavior problems, such as sock-chewing, begin to cause minor problems, the parents decide they no longer want Fred. However, the little girl reminds them that Fred is hers, not theirs, and works at finding solutions.

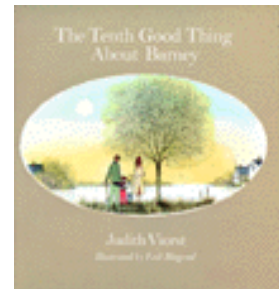


The Tenth Good Thing about Barney
by Judith Viorst, 1971

AnimalTales 3

My cat Barney died last Friday. I was very sad. I cried...

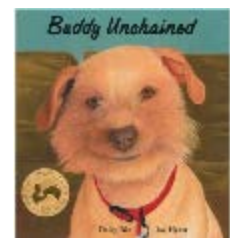
So begins this simple story told from the perspective of a child who tries to remember the 10 best things about Barney. The author aptly handles both the emotions stemming from the loss of a beloved pet and the questions about the finality of death which naturally arise in such a situation.



Buddy Unchained
by Bob Graham, 2001

AnimalTales 3

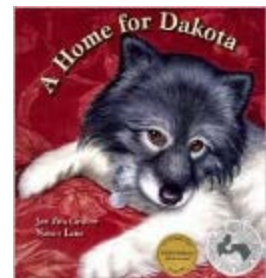
Buddy Unchained is a deeply moving look at a dog abandoned and adopted. The story is simple yet of vast importance, and at the end we want nothing more than to make sure that all the Buddys of the world are loved and cared for like this patient, easy-to-please pup.



A Home for Dakota
by Jan Zita Grover, 2010

AnimalTales 3, 4

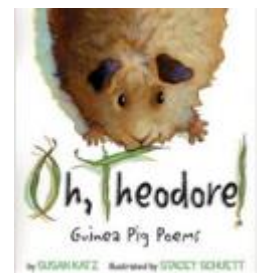
Dog No. 241, from a puppy mill breeding operation is rescued and taken to a warm, secure foster home. She is eventually renamed Dakota and learns to love and trust. A new challenge arrives when Dakota is adopted by a family with a little girl, Sweetie, who is also undergoing recovery. Dakota and Sweetie learn from and take comfort in one another.



Oh, Theodore!
by Susan Katz, 2007

AnimalTales 3, 4

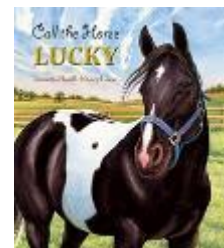
Through poetry and illustrations, you'll learn about Theodore the guinea pig and the work it takes to care for him: feeding, cleaning and taking him out for exercise. But it hardly seems like work when he's your best friend, though you must take care not to let him get lost.



Call the Horse Lucky
by Juanita Havill, 2010

AnimalTales 4

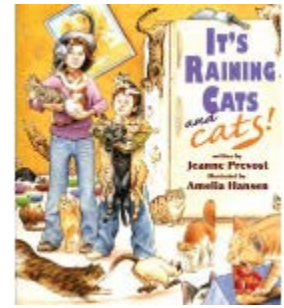
When visiting her grandmother, Mel discovers a neglected horse. Moved by the sight of his sad, glazed eyes and protruding ribs, Mel initiates a rescue; the horse is transported to a rescue ranch, where Mel learns about horse care. When Lucky recovers and moves to a horse therapy ranch, Mel is thrilled that she can volunteer there and continue to bond with the horse she helped save.



It's Raining Cats and Cats
by Jeanne Prevost, 2008

AnimalTales 4

When Jim and his mom return home from the vet with Molly the cat after her surgery, Jim asks, "Why did we keep Molly from having kittens? I like kittens!" In this delightfully illustrated imagined journey into the future, Jim's mom shows the many ways that Molly's (and her kittens') potential for multiplying would change their lives—and not for the better!



C'mere Boy
by Sharon Jennings, 2010



AnimalTales 5

Dog wants his very own boy. Even though Mama warns him that a boy takes a lot of work, Dog is determined to find the perfect boy for him – and wonders if boy will be hard to train? This humorous story discusses responsible pet ownership - with a twist of perspective.



How Smudge Came
by Nan Gregory, 1995



AnimalTales 5, 6

When Cindy, a young woman with Down syndrome, finds a puppy amid the garbage, she brings him home and takes her to the hospice where she works. When told she can't keep a dog, Smudge ends up at an animal shelter – though not for long. This book gently raises many discussion points about the responsibilities of pet ownership and attitudes toward people with disabilities.

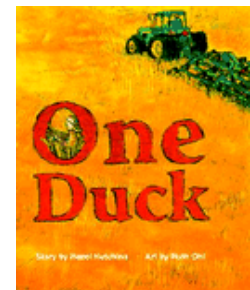


One Duck
by Hazel Hutchins, 1999



AnimalTales 5, 6

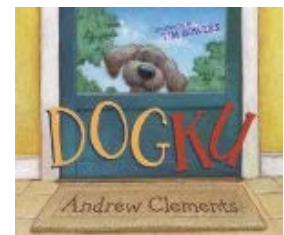
A duck nests in a field and goes about the business of hatching her eggs. A farmer, who doesn't know about her, decides it's time to turn the soil. Seeing the duck at the last minute, the farmer stops his tractor and moves the nest. The next day, the duck is seen leading her newly hatched ducklings to a pond. This story illustrates how, with a little care, human interests and those of nature can co-exist.



Dogku
by Andrew Clements, 2007

AnimalTales 5, 6

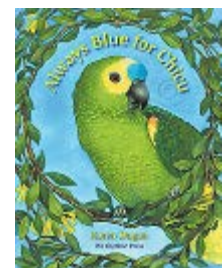
When a homeless dog shows up at the back door, a family takes him in, feeds and bathes him, and names him. Written entirely in haiku, the pet experience is a clever, fun introduction to the poetic form and an engaging lead-in to a class writing exercise.



Always Blue for Chicu
by Karen Dugan, 2010

AnimalTales 6

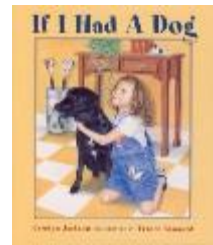
Over many long years, Chicu is handed off from one owner to another until he finally ends up at a parrot sanctuary. Chicu's story opens a window into the life of exotic birds whose very beauty leads to their imprisonment, birds whose unique qualities call out for understanding and care.



If I Had a Dog
by Carolyn Jackson, 2006

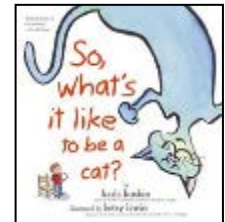


When Maxine and her big brother Hugh set out for the park one day, they encounter many different dogs in many circumstances and Maxine learns how to approach them safely, reading and reacting to their own particular body language. This book could be used as an introduction to pet care and safety.



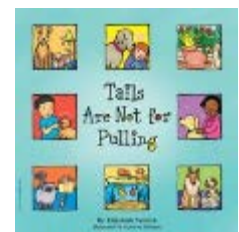
So, What's it like to be a Cat?
by Karla Kuskin, 2005

A boy explores the essence of being a cat through the framework of an interview with a series of skillfully constructed questions. He asks questions about what they like and don't like, and what they think of people. Students learn about the unique nature of cats in a humorous way.



Tails Are Not for Pulling
by Elizabeth Verdick, 2005

If pets could talk, what would they say? Maybe – tails are not for pulling! In simple words and colourful illustrations, this book teaches the basics of kindness to animals: careful handling, awareness, safety, and respect. It also includes helpful tips for parents and caregivers.



You Can't Rush a Cat
by Karleen Bradford, 2003

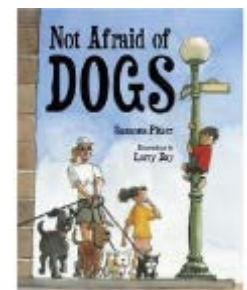


When Jessica visits her grandfather for a few days, he tells her about a feral cat living in the bushes near his house. Despite his efforts, the cat refuses to come out. Jessica asks her grandfather to be patient, claiming, "You can't rush a cat." As the weather turns cold, they keep trying to get the cat to come inside until it finally learns to trust these humans. This book illustrates the perils faced by cats left on their own.



Not Afraid of Dogs
by Susanna Pitzer, 2006

Daniel is the bravest boy in the world, able to face spiders, snakes and thunderstorms...but he just doesn't like dogs. When his aunt goes on vacation and leaves her pet, Bandit, with his family, he stays in his room and refuses to come out. Daniel's anxiety slowly turns to astonishment as he realizes that he can comfort the pup—and that he does like dogs after all.



Clip-Clop
by Eleanor Koldofsky, 2005



This nostalgic story offers a glimpse into urban life at the turn of the century, when horses were common sights on city streets, bringing ice and coal and pulling fire wagons. Young Consuela loves horses and shows the hard-working creatures as much kindness as she can. This story would accompany a history lesson, especially emphasizing the importance of animals in establishing our society.



Orville: A Dog Story
by Haven Kimmel, 2003

Orville, a homeless dog, is discovered by a couple who put him on a chain. He barks to let the world know just how miserable he feels, and just before he's about to be sent to the pound, Orville finds a way to connect with a lonely neighbour. This story demonstrates the life of a chained dog and the possibilities that lie ahead when chains are broken – both for dogs and humans.



The Giving Tree
by Shel Silverstein, 1964

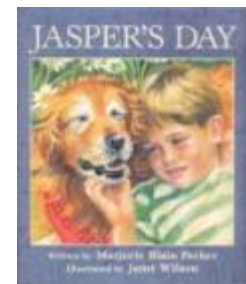
Every day the boy would come to the tree to eat her apples, swing from her branches, or slide down her trunk . . . and the tree was happy. But as the boy grew older he began to want more from the tree, and the tree gave and gave. This moving parable for readers of all ages offers an affecting interpretation of the gift of giving and acceptance of another's capacity to love in return. It also illustrates the importance of responsible stewardship and how much we receive from nature.



Jasper's Day
by Marjorie Blain Parker, 2002



Having watched their beloved dog Jasper grow weak and tired from cancer, Riley's family made the difficult decision to have him euthanized and plan to make his last day a very special one. Beautifully illustrated snapshots of the day's small pleasures address topics such as pet loss, grief, and euthanasia as a way of alleviating a dying pet's pain. Based on a true story, by an Alberta author.



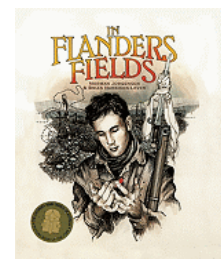
The First Dog
by Jan Brett, 1998

A simple, imaginative tale of how the first domestication of a wild animal may have occurred. Kip, a cave boy living at the end of the Ice Age, is followed on his journey home by a Paleowolf, who – smelling the boy's roasted Woolly Rhino bones – begs for a treat. Each time the boy stops to rest and eat, the wolf hound senses danger and flees, saving the boy's life, too.



In Flanders Fields
by Norman Jorgensen, 2002

On a World War I battlefield, a young soldier risks his life to rescue a robin caught in barbed wire separating enemy lines. His courageous act dramatically affects not just the robin, but all who witnessed it. This fable provides an opportunity to discuss the realities of war, the meaning of sacrifice and how an act of kindness to animals can raise the spirits of people.



A Very Unusual Dog
by Dorothy Joan Harris, 2004

Jonathan has a very unusual dog. It likes to go to the park and watch TV and eat toast crumbs. And it's invisible. His big sister Elizabeth says Dog isn't real, but Jonathan and Grandma know better. A wonderful story about imagination, responsibility and sharing.



Give a Dog Your Heart
by Aubrey H. Fine, 2011

An uplifting story about a boy and his dog Hart that spans a decade, ending with Corey learning one of the hardest lessons in his young life as he struggles to make sense of Hart's death. Written by a child psychologist, this book gives children and their families the opportunity to talk about their feelings of love and loss.



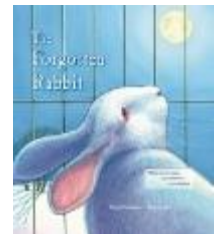
No Cats Allowed
by Lois Simmie, 1995

One rainy night, a stray cat seeks refuge in a warm and cozy hotel. But before the manager can put him on the street, the irresistible cat charms guests and staff alike. And, in the end, even the grumpy manager finds a warm place in his heart for this adorable cat.



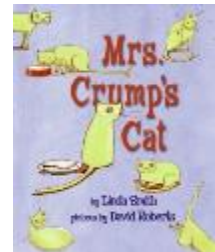
The Forgotten Rabbit
by Nancy Furstinger, 2014

The story of a rabbit who was purchased as an 'impulse pet' and later forgotten and neglected until he was rescued by someone who gave her a forever home and showed her the meaning of love.



Mrs. Crump's Cat
by Linda Smith, 2006

When Mrs. Crump finds a cat on her doorstep she tries to shoe him away however the cat slips inside the house and into Mrs. Crump's life. Mrs. Crump learns how to properly take care of the cat and grows to appreciate the cat's company. This is a great story of how cats can provide companionship and unconditional love.



Nico & Lola: Kindness Shared Between a Boy and a Dog
by Meggan Hill, 2010

This book is a great way to introduce young children to the responsibilities of owning a pet. Nico, a young boy, takes on the responsibility of caring for his aunt's Pug, Lola. The boy learns to be kind by giving Lola everything she needs to be healthy and happy.



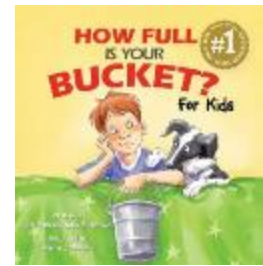
The Way I Love You
by David Bedford, 2008

This is a wonderful book for K-2 students. It shows the special place in our hearts for our pets. After all, they aren't just furry animals that we must feed and clean up after, they are in fact our family, our friends, and sometimes our confidants.



How Full Is Your Bucket? For Kids
by Tom Rath, Mary Reckmeyer, 2009

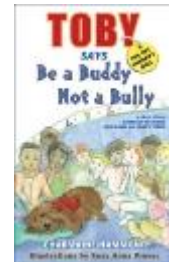
Each of us has an invisible bucket. When our bucket is full, we feel great. Follow along with Felix as he learns how easy it can be to fill the buckets of his classmates, teachers, family members, and his pet dog. Before the day is over, you'll see how Felix learns to be a great bucket-filler, and in the process discovers that filling someone else's bucket also fills his own.



Toby says Be a Buddy, Not a Bully
by Charmaine Hammond, 2013



When Toby steps into the path of a dog who bullies him and shreds his beloved stuffed teddy-bear toy, we see the hurt feelings it creates. This beautifully illustrated book teaches children about the importance of kindness, respect, acceptance, and being considerate of others, including pets.



All Dogs have ADHD
by Kathy Hoopmann, 2008

This charming book takes an inspiring and affectionate look at Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), using images and ideas from the canine world to explore a variety of traits that will be instantly recognizable to those who are familiar with ADHD.



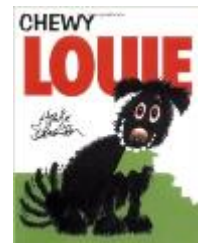
All Cats have Asperger Syndrome
by Kathy Hoopmann, 2006

This book takes a playful look at Asperger Syndrome (AS), drawing inspiration from the feline world in a way that will strike a chord with all those who are familiar with AS.



Chewy Louie
by Howie Schneider, 2000

Puppies will be puppies and patience will be a necessity now that Chewy Louie has joined the household. He eats everything in sight: his bowl, toy trains, the dining-room table, the fence, and the back porch. Using exaggerated humour, this fun read is a goofy tale with lots of kid appeal.



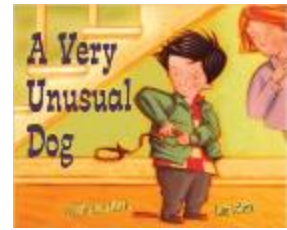
Hanni and Beth: Safe & Sound
by Beth Finke, 2007

This story of how Beth, who is blind, travels safely around the city--to work, shopping, even to baseball games--with the help of Hanni, a specially-trained Golden/Labrador Retriever, is a touching tale of mutual devotion and teamwork.



A Very Unusual Dog
by Dorothy Joan Harris, 2007

Jonathan has a very unusual dog. It likes to go to the park, watch TV, and eat toast crumbs. And it's invisible. His big sister Elizabeth says Dog isn't real, but Jonathan and Grandma know better... A story about imagination and sharing.



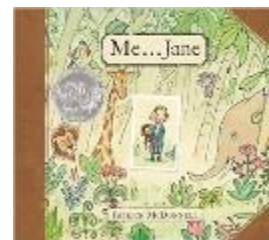
I Got Two Dogs
by John Lithgow, 2008

John Lithgow's bouncy song - in the book and on the accompanying CD - is based on his own family's two dogs. The only message in this unabashed celebration of dog-ownership is the joy that can be had with a rambunctious canine friend – or two.



Me... Jane
by Patrick McDonnell, 2011

The story of the young Jane Goodall and her special childhood toy chimpanzee named Jubilee. As the young Jane observes the natural world around her with wonder, she dreams of "a life living with and helping all animals," until one day she finds that her dream has come true.



Otis's Story
by Erin Young, 2012



In his first book, Otis the Owl takes us through the journey of how he came to live at the Medicine River Wildlife Centre in west-central Alberta – and demonstrates the importance of wildlife rehabilitation. The author is Otis's best friend and translator and Education Coordinator of the Centre.



Tangled in Trash
by Erin Young, 2013

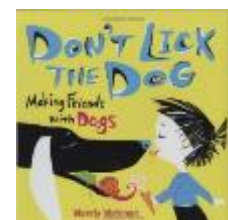


Now that the Medicine River Wildlife Centre is his home, Otis the Owl takes note of many wild animals being cared for there. Narrated by Otis, this story of a Loon that become entangled in discarded garbage serves as an important lesson in keeping our environment clean and safe for all creatures.



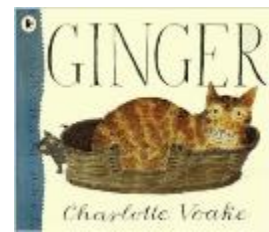
Don't Lick the Dog
by Wendy Wahman, 2009

Meeting a new dog is exciting, but it can also be scary. This humorous – and colourful – how-to manual shows kids the best ways to interact with unfamiliar dogs, providing helpful tips about all sorts of dog behaviour. Slow Down. Stay very still. And remember, don't lick the dog!



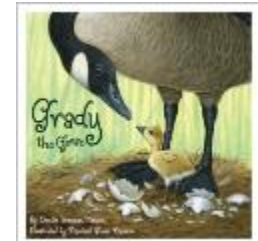
Ginger
by Charlotte Voake, 2008

Ginger has a problem. Having lived the luxurious life of a pampered cat, he's suddenly confronted with a kitten in the house. A delightful surprise ending gives hope for these two becoming furry friends after all – and teaches the reader that animals can't just be put together and expected to get along.



Grady the Goose
by Denise Brennan-Nelson, 2006

This tale delivers a gentle story of the development of a young Canada goose from birth to migration.. Drawing upon the grouping instincts of Canada geese, the author weaves a gentle thread of family togetherness through the various stages of Grady's growth and maturation – and lessons we can learn from them.



Are You Ready for Me?
by Claire Buchwald, 2009

Dog expert Stanley Coren says, 'This easy-going book tells kids what they will have to do to turn their dog into a happy and fun pet, and also how to care for it in the right way. It is a useful and pleasant 'reality check' for all kids who are begging to have a dog of their own.'



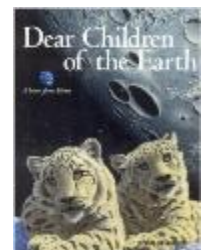
The Pigeon Wants a Puppy!
by Mo Willems, 2008

The pigeon really, really, REALLY wants a puppy. Do you think it's a good idea? This book, one of a series of *Pigeon* books by former *Sesame Street* writer Mo Willems, is a whimsical look at a serious question that should be considered by anyone thinking of getting a dog.



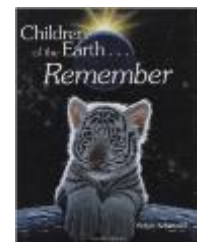
Dear Children of the Earth
by Shim Schimmel, 1994

A remarkable letter from Mother Earth asking for help from children everywhere. She writes to express her love for each and every child and asks for their love and appreciation in return. In her own words, and with all of her heart, Mother Earth enfolds children with love and entrusts them with her protection.



Children of the Earth... Remember
by Shim Schimmel, 1997

Accompanied by dramatic artwork, the letter from Mother Earth continues to lovingly tell the story of the one big family sharing our home planet. It's a tender lesson of sharing and protecting our environment.

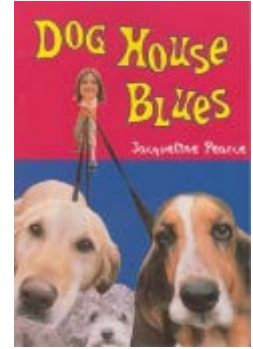


Chapter Books

Dog House Blues by Jacqueline Pearce, 2005



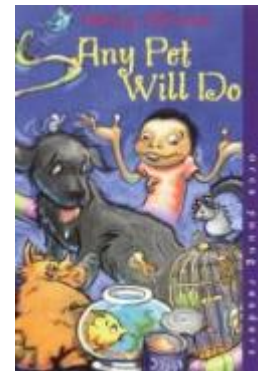
Erika struggles to deal with being bullied by other pre-teen girls. She is torn by her love of her family's numerous pets adopted by her veterinarian mother, and the shame of being nicknamed "dog girl." Written for the BC SPCA Kids' Club, the love and intimacy with which Pearce describes the dogs in this book is evident. The humorous personalities of Erika's dogs are based on the real life incidents of pets which belong to Pearce's friends. A good lesson on how relationships between humans – and animals.



Any Pet Will Do by Nancy Shouse, 2005

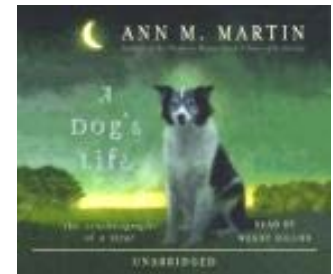


This fun-filled chapter book begins with nine-year-old Jeremy's father telling him "Pets are a huge responsibility," inspiring the determined Jeremy to start a petsitting business to discover the type of pet that's best for him. Along the way Jeremy – and his parents – learn how much fun and how much work it is to have a pet. The endnote from the author cautions that Jeremy's example is not one to be followed, and points out how Jeremy could have researched pet needs before caring for them.



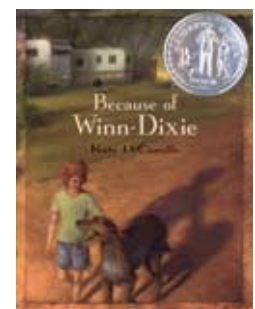
A Dog's Life: the Autobiography of a Stray by Ann M. Martin, 2005

Squirrel is not like most dogs. Born a stray, she must make her own way in the world, facing busy highways, changing seasons, and humans both gentle and brutal. Her life story, in her own words, is marked by loss, but also by an inspiring instinct to survive. It brings home the hardships endured by animals who are lost or abandoned.



Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate KiCamillo, 2000

Ten-year-old Opal Buloni begins her account of the summer her life changed because of Winn-Dixie, a goofy stray dog she adopted. Author Kate DiCamillo earned one of the highest honors in children's books when *Because of Winn-Dixie* was designated a Newbery Honour Book for excellence.



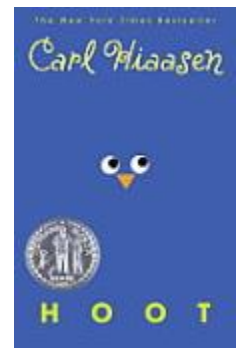
Charlotte's Web by E. B. White, 1952

E. B. White's Newbery Honor Book is a tender novel of friendship, love, life, and death that will continue to be enjoyed by generations to come.



Hoot
by Carl Hiaasen, 2002

In his first novel for a younger audience, Carl Hiaasen 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 adult system. Sure to be a hit for middle school mystery fans.



Dog Lost
by Ingrid Lee, 2008

A stray pit bull and a boy whose father is a violent alcoholic both have much to fear and when they try to find comfort from one another they find more obstacles to overcome. Tackling issues such as the turmoil of dysfunctional families, the sinister underworld of dog fighting, and the despair of terminal illness, this hard-hitting book is a page turner that lends itself to serious discussion.



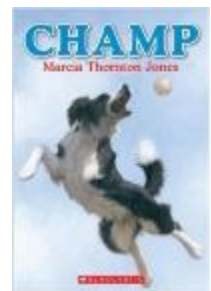
Shiloh
by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, 1992

When 11-year-old Marty chances upon a mistreated beagle pup, he is not prepared for the ethical questions he has to face. Should he return the dog to its owner, only to have the animal abused again? Should he tell his parents? Should he steal food to help the poor creature? As Marty grapples with these questions, it will prove thought-provoking for readers young and old alike. Two sequels – Shilo Season and Saving Shilo – complete the trilogy.



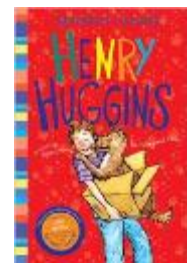
Champ
by Marcia Thornton Jones, 2007

Riley is awful at sports. He wants to quit the baseball team, but his dad won't let him give up. So when one bad swing brings a three-legged dog into his life, Riley feels like he's been thrown a curveball. How can he take care of a dog and make his dad proud?



Henry Huggins
by Beverly Cleary, 2016

Just as Henry Huggins is complaining that nothing exciting ever happens, a friendly dog sits down beside him and looks pleadingly at his ice-cream cone. From that moment on, the two are inseparable. But when Ribsby's original owner appears, trying to reclaim his dog, Henry's faced with the possibility of losing his new best friend. Has Klickitat Street seen the last of rambunctious Ribsby?

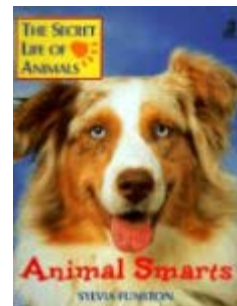


Non-Fiction Books for Upper Elementary/Jr. High Students

Animal Smarts

Author: Sylvia Funston, 1997

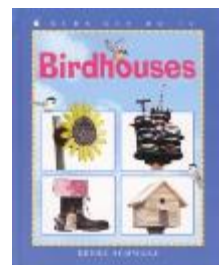
Animal Smarts, one of *The Secret Life of Animals* series, details fascinating findings about all sorts of creatures, from our everyday pets to exotic wildlife from remote places around the world. *The Secret Life of Animals* series presents the very latest discoveries about animal behaviors that have long been hidden and mysterious. Sylvia Funston, former editor-in-chief of *OWL* and *Chickadee Magazines*, is a multi-award-winning science author and editor.



Birdhouses (Kids Can Do It) by Renée Schwartz, 2005



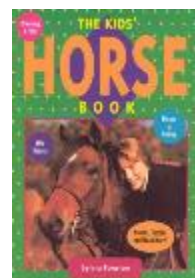
Building birdhouses is a great way to get chickadees, bluebirds, swallows, wrens and many other kinds of birds to nest in your backyard – or schoolyard. And with fewer old trees around for birds to nest in, building birdhouses is not only fun, it's important. Nine different designs are identified for different bird species.



The Kids' Horse Book by Sylvia Funston, 2005



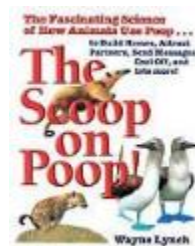
Originally published in 1993, *The Kids' Horse Book* is part reference book and part activity book. Full of detailed illustrations and evocative photographs, this ultimate guide to everything "horsey" brims with information on breeds, grooming, riding techniques and horse communication, plus captivating stories and amazing facts. The entertaining format encourages browsing or reading from cover to cover.



The Scoop On Poop by Wayne Lynch, 2002



Here's a fun and scientific look at poop in the animal world. Children will be fascinated to find out that some wild animals eat their dung, others use it to send messages or mark their territory, and some even squirt it on themselves to cool off. *The Scoop on Poop* will change the way you look at droppings forever.



Birds of Prey Rescue: Changing the future for endangered wildlife by Pam Hickman, 2006



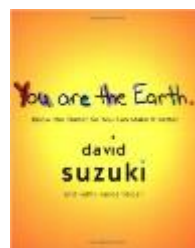
In *Birds of Prey Rescue*, you'll meet people from around the world who are fighting to ensure a future for these magnificent birds, including an Alberta rancher who helps burrowing owls on his land. The author is a biologist with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists.



You are the Earth by David Suzuki, 1999



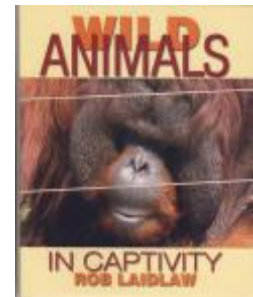
This book explains, in easy to understand language, how everything on Earth is connected. It's full of scientific facts, activities, ideas and stories to help anyone understand the relationship between society and the environment and what can be done to make it better.



Wild Animals in Captivity
by Rob Laidlaw, 2008



Wild Animals in Captivity is a powerful, dramatically presented book that focuses on the life of wild animals living in captivity around the world. This eye-opening look at the lives of captive wild animals shows the best that captivity has to offer, as well as some of the worst. The lessons it contains will set children on the path to compassion and advocacy, so that they can make the world a better place for all animals, both captive and wild.



A Pale Male
by Jeanette Winter, 2007

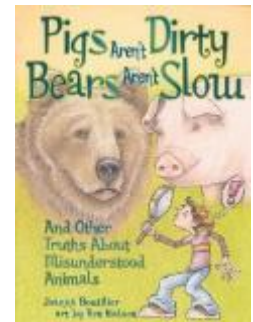
This is the incredible true story of a Red-tailed Hawk that makes himself at home in the most unlikely of places--atop a high-rise apartment building in New York City. Named Pale Male by his many fans, this majestic bird not only endures in this urban environment, he thrives. But when the residents have Pale Male's nest removed from their building, a historic battle--and triumph--ensues, uniting bird lovers everywhere.



Pigs Aren't Dirty, Bears Aren't Slow: And Other Truths About Misunderstood Animals
by Joanna Boutilier, 2005



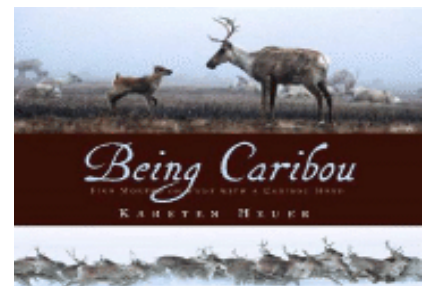
The facts on beasts with bad raps. Lifelike illustrations and fascinating text invite the reader to explore and discover the truth about ten animals whose true selves are often quite surprising. Pigs are indeed clean creatures. They prefer sleeping on the highest ground in a pen -- away from where any waste might drain. And don't let the size of a bear fool you. Over short distances some bears can run as fast as a horse.



Being Caribou: Five Months on Foot with a Caribou Herd
by Karsten Heuer, 2007

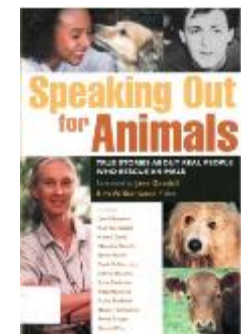


This 48-page picture book chronicling the 2003 epic journey through the wild country straddling the Canada-Alaska border by newlywed Albertans Karsten Heuer and Leanne Allison documents the physical hardships, unexpected dangers and wondrous discoveries they encountered as they followed the 100,000 caribou over 1500 km on their annual trek to safe (but environmentally threatened) calving grounds by the Beaufort Sea.



Speaking Out for Animals
edited by Kim W. Stallwood, 2001

With the subtitle *True stories about real people who rescue animals*, this book gathers together moving and inspiring stories about both celebrities and ordinary people who use their voices and actions to help animals. The numerous *happy ending* and *unsung hero* stories are mostly only 2 or 3 pages long -- so a new story could be read at the start of class every day.

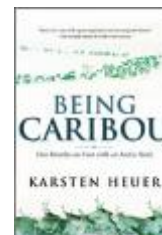


Books for Junior & Senior High School Students

Being Caribou: Five Months on Foot with an Arctic Herd by Karsten Heuer, 2007



This book expands the narrative over 235 pages that delve more deeply into the authors' motivations, physical and emotional tribulations, and the internal changes brought about as they had to move, act and think like caribou in order to keep up with the herd.



The Eco-Diary of Kiran Singer by Sue Ann Alderson, 2007



The Camosun Bog has existed for 2000 years, but, like wetlands everywhere, it has been encroached on by an expanding urban landscape. In *The Eco-Diary of Kiran Singer*, Sue Ann Alderson chronicles one child's encounter with the bog and the Crazy Boggers who are working to protect and restore it. Full of humor and gentle irony, this is an intimate, child's eye view of the natural world. The book is a warning but it is also a celebration of life and of our potential to make a difference.



Black Beauty by Anna Sewell, 1877

The original title page for this classic novel read: "*Black Beauty: The Autobiography of a Horse*, translated from the original equine, by Anna Sewell." *Black Beauty* is considered the first novel in the genre of animal autobiography. The style of presenting an animal as an animal rather than giving it human traits has been followed by similar stories such as *Beautiful Joe* and *The Incredible Journey*. Sewell's novel has been an influence on animal stories of all kinds, including those of popular modern writers such as Beatrix Potter and Kenneth Grahame. The book resulted in legislation protecting horses and a changed public attitude about animal pain and the traditional and fashionable practices that caused suffering for horses.



Beautiful Joe by Margaret Marshall Saunders, 1893



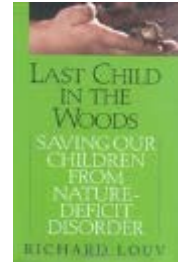
Born in Nova Scotia, Margaret Marshall Saunders (1861-1947) taught school briefly before starting her career as a novelist. Her second book, *Beautiful Joe*, achieved international recognition. Inspired during a visit to Meaford Ontario about 1892, it is based on the story of a dog rescued from a brutal master by a local miller, William Moore. Margaret relocated the story to a small town in Maine and changed the family's name to Morris to win a literary contest sponsored by the American Humane Education Society. The book quickly became the first Canadian book to sell more than a million copies. Miss Saunders was awarded the Companion of the British Empire (CBE) in 1934 in recognition of her contribution toward securing humane treatment for animals.



Books for Teachers

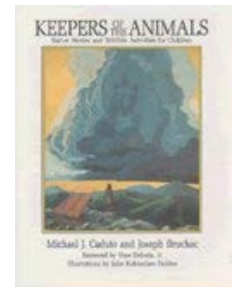
Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder by Richard Louv, 2005

Based on the premise that our children are the first generation to be raised without the meaningful contact with the nature world, the author directly links the lack of nature in the lives of today's wired generation to some of the most disturbing childhood trends such as rises in obesity, attention deficit disorder and depression.



Keepers of the Animals: Native Stories and Wildlife Activities for Children by Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac, 1999

A beautifully written and illustrated book, *Keepers of the Animals* helps parents and teachers educate children about "our relationship with the animals." The stories, 27 in all, demonstrate the power and importance of animals in Native North American traditions and are more relevant today than ever.



Rediscovery: Ancient Pathways, New Directions by Thom Henley, 1996

For over 25 years, the Rediscovery program has drawn from the timeless wisdom of Aboriginal elders to help teach youth to respect the earth and each other. With forewords by Bill Reid and David Suzuki, this collection of over 130 outdoor activities based on native traditions from around the world will inspire youth of any age and background to discover and respect the world within themselves, the cultural worlds between each other, and the natural world around them.



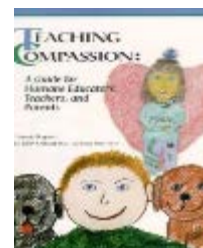
EarthKind: A Teachers' Handbook on Humane Education by David Selby, 1995

This comprehensive handbook develops the theory and practice of humane education and offers an extensive range of practical and lively activities for both primary and secondary classrooms. It presents ideas for teacher education and provides detailed information on further resources and humane education organizations.



Teaching Compassion: A Guide for Humane Educators, Teachers, and Parents by Pamela Raphael with Libby Colman and Lynn Loar, 1999

Through lessons that teach respect, responsibility and compassion for all life, children learn about the importance of caring for themselves and others. By caring for animals, children make the connection to caring for themselves, which increases their self-respect and self-esteem. This belief is carried throughout the theory and practical lesson plans presented in this book.



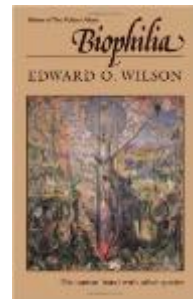
Children and Nature: psychological, sociocultural, and evolutionary investigations
by Peter H. Kahn Jr. and Stephen R. Kellert, 2002

This book draws on research from numerous fields to examine the evolutionary significance of nature during childhood; the formation of children's conceptions, values and sympathies toward the natural world; how contact with nature affects children's physical and mental development; and the educational and political consequences of the weakened childhood experience of nature in modern society.



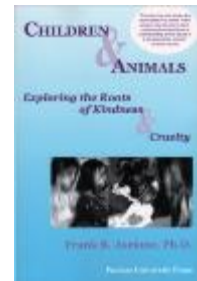
Biophilia: the human bond with other species
by Edward O. Wilson

Biophilia is Edward O. Wilson's most personal book, an evocation of his own response to nature and an eloquent statement of the conservation ethic. Wilson argues that our natural affinity for life—biophilia—is the very essence of our humanity and binds us to all other living things.



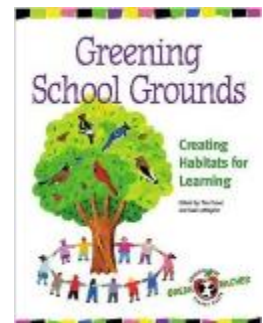
Children & Animals: Exploring the Roots of Kindness & Cruelty
by Frank R. Ascione, 2005

In recent decades, scientific research has provided evidence that the maltreatment of animals often overlaps with violence toward people. Violence, including bullying, schoolyard assaults, child abuse in homes and intimate partner violence are often intertwined with animal cruelty. This book presents current scientific and professional wisdom about the relation between the maltreatment of animals and interpersonal violence in an understandable style and language.



Greening School Grounds: Creating Habitats for Learning
by Tim Grant and Gail Littlejohn, 2001

This compendium of articles from *Green Teacher*, North America's leading environmental education magazine, brings together the best strategies for school-ground renewal. *Greening School Grounds* provides an overview of the school grounds greening movement, complete project plans, and subject integration. From vegetable and butterfly gardens to an amphibian oasis and avian attractors, this comprehensive guide offers a trove of curriculum tie-ins, activities, and plans.



Teaching about Climate Change : Cool Schools Tackle Global Warming
by Tim Grant and Gail Littlejohn, 2001

This exciting resource provides educators at all grade levels with strategies to teach about global warming and engage students' interest in doing their part to help cool the planet. Compiled from the pages of *Green Teacher*, this book is packed with lesson plans, activities, experiments, and worksheets. From calculating your school's CO2 emissions and other greenhouse effect experiments, to strategies for reducing school energy consumption, this compendium provides the tools to get any classroom or community involved in making their school cool.

