

Animal Reflection Prompts

Overview Students will respond in writing from the perspective of an animal. This activity encourages empathy while having students use their creative thinking skills and build vocabulary.

Key questions

- Do we have similar wants and needs to animals?
- Do animals feel emotions like sadness, happiness or worry?

Big ideas *(from BC Ed Curriculum)*

- All living things sense and respond to their environment.
- Questioning what we hear, read and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens.
- Stories help us learn about ourselves, our families, and our communities.

**curriculum competencies are listed on the last page of this packet*

Activity

Have students choose a writing prompt to create a paragraph or page. They will put themselves in the place of an animal and write from their perspective, mirroring how that animal might feel in the situation.

Modifications

Reluctant writers can create a comic strip instead.

Discussion questions

- Which prompt did you choose and why?
- How did you feel while writing the reflection?
- What do animals need to be happy and healthy?
- Do you think animals in captivity get everything they need to be happy and healthy? If not, what can we do to teach others about what they need?

Extension ideas

What other reflection prompts would you add to this list?



Animal Reflection Prompts

Materials: writing materials, drawing materials (optional)

Directions:

Choose one of the following prompts and write a reflection paragraph. To learn about the animals you are writing about, check out the “additional resources” link.

Thinking Prompts:

1. What's it like to be small?



Imagine you are a small pet like a hamster, guinea pig or gerbil. Humans look like giants and you live in a very small cage. Write about what that is like. Do loud noises startle you? What kind of environment do YOU want to live in? How does it feel when a big hand reaches in and grabs you without warning?

2. Farm animals have feelings, too!



Choose a farm animal and write a paragraph from their perspective. What would life be like if you were a hen living in a tiny cage with five others, in a barn full of cages? If you were a cow whose baby is taken away so you can produce milk for humans instead, how would you feel and what would you tell the farmer?

3. Stolen from the wild!



Think about being an exotic animal that people keep as a pet, like a parrot, sugar glider or bearded dragon. Imagine you are free in your natural habitat when suddenly you are captured and put in a cage to be someone's pet. What do you miss most about the wild? What do you wish humans knew about you?

4. Where are my people?



Imagine you are a pet rabbit who lives with a family. They give you food and a safe place to live. One day they take you to the park, tip you out of your kennel and drive away. How do you feel as an abandoned bunny, and what scares you the most?

5. It's cold out here!



Your human family is inside where it is cozy and warm, but you are a dog left outside tethered to the doghouse all day. It is kind of lonely out here, and it is starting to snow. How do you feel? What do you want more than anything?

Curricular competencies and content

English/Language Arts

- Sensing and responding: other animals
- Access and integrate information and ideas from a variety of sources and from prior knowledge to build understanding
- Identify how differences in context, perspectives and voice influence meaning in texts
- Use personal experience and knowledge to connect to text and deepen understanding of self, community and world
- Construct meaningful personal connections between self, text and world
- Develop and apply expanding word knowledge

Core Competencies

Creative Thinking

Students will reflect on existing ideas and concepts and use imagination, inventiveness, resourcefulness, and flexibility to see things from an animals perspective.

Critical and Reflective Thinking

Students will question and challenge their own thoughts, ideas, and assumptions about how animals think and feel.