

**SPCA Auckland Education
Teacher Guide Sheet**



‘Humane Animal Stories’ Level 4 Year 8 English

Close Reading

‘Discuss language, meanings, and ideas in a range of texts, relating their understanding to experiences, purposes, audience, and other texts’.

Poetic Writing

‘Write on a variety of topics, shaping, editing, and reworking texts in a range of genres, and using vocabulary and conventions, such as spelling and sentence structure’.

'Humane Animal Stories' Worksheet
Level 4 English

Close Reading, Written Language, Poetic, Expressive

Students will be able to distinguish between stories which are humane and compassionate, and those that are not.

Materials

Children's Story Books
Materials for making books



Answer the following questions:

1. What does it mean to be 'humane'?

2. Do books always have humane messages?

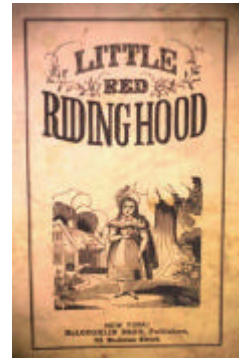
3. Do some books have unrealistic portrayal of human/animal interactions?

4. How do books shape our opinions and attitudes? Think of an example of a book that changed your attitude about an issue.

Activity

A. Visit the public library and research using children's books.

Record which books give unrealistic ideas as to the abilities and interactions of animals with humans. Say why the book is unsuitable.



B. Students are to write their own short stories with humane themes portraying human/animal interactions which are realistic.

Suggestions include:

- ? A child wants to adopt a pet. How does the family decide what to do? What are the needs of the pet?
- ? A family lives on a farm. How must they take this into account when choosing a pet?
- ? A pet becomes lost from her home. What actions should the family take?
- ? What can an owner do to prevent a cat or dog from becoming lost?
- ? What services does the SPCA provide to lost and sick animals?
- ? A cat lives inside with its family. What does the family do to keep the cat content inside the home?

Answer the following questions

1. Why are some books not appropriate for teaching humane treatment of animals?



2. Should books be supervised by parents and teachers? Why?

3. How can the media, (newspapers, magazines, TV, movies) also portray animals inhumanely?

Humane Education Guidelines for Children's Literature

There are numerous children's books with animal themes. As educators, we must be able to discern which books have appropriate and humane messages and which ones have irresponsible and negative portrayal of human/animal interactions.

BEWARE OF:

- Dogs and/or cats running at large with no one to supervise them.
- Dogs and/or cats not wearing collars and tags
- Cats that are allowed to roam free (this can cause cat fights, killing of wildlife, and injury to the cat).
- Procreation of puppies and kittens
- Children feeding or interacting with wildlife
- Children buying or adopting pets on their own (adults are not mentioned in the story).
- Over-exaggerating animal behaviour (i.e. a young puppy running through the neighbourhood with the kids as they play).
- Stories where no humans are mentioned and dogs and cats are surviving on their own (the message says it's okay to be a stray).
- Disregard for or mistreatment of any type of creature, whether it's a spider or an elephant (sends the message that these animals or insects aren't important and it's okay to treat them poorly).