

## Suggested Bibliography for Elementary and Middle School Students

### ---For Developing Readers---

- Arnold, Caroline. ***Pets Without Homes***. New York: Ticknor & Fields (Houghton-Mifflin), 1983. In this picture book illustrated with photographs, Buffy and Max are unwanted or lost and must go to the animal shelter. The story of their care gives good information about the services provided at animal shelters.
- Buchwald, Art. ***The Bollo Caper***. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1983. Bollo, the most beautiful leopard in Africa, is trapped and brought to New York City to become a fur coat. He ends up in Washington, D.C., where he helps enact a law to protect endangered species.
- Cleary, Beverly. ***Socks***. New York: Scholastic, 1973. Socks the cat is alarmed to find out that the Brickers have brought home what he thinks is a new animal. Socks endures the loss of attention from the Brickers and even being relegated to the garage before he finally becomes friends with the new baby.
- Dahl, Roald. ***The Magic Finger***. New York: Puffin Books, 1966. A hilarious story about a little girl who, when she is very angry, can point her finger and cause mysterious things to happen. She becomes angry at the Gregg family when she sees them hunting for ducks, and, after she points her magic finger, the Greggs turn into ducks, with comical results.
- Goble, Paul. ***The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses***. New York: Bradbury Press, 1978. A Caldecott Award winner, this picture book tells of a Native American girl who is carried away on the back of a frightened wild horse in the midst of a thunderstorm. Happy to live among the horses, she hardly notices as a year goes by. When hunters rescue her, she is glad to see her family, but she must soon return to the wild horses, where she is free.
- Jeschke, Susan. ***Perfect the Pig***. New York: Scholastic, 1980. The delightful story of a pig who wishes for wings, then goes to live in the city with an artist who loves him and treats him kindly. Perfect is kidnapped by a mean man, who cruelly trains him to perform. A great illustration of compassion for animals.
- McNulty, Faith. ***The Lady and the Spider***. U.S.: Harper & Row, 1986. In a lady's garden, a spider makes her home within a head of lettuce. This story tells of the spider's encounter with the lady, who stops just short of carelessly destroying the tiny creature and begins to marvel at the spider's fragile existence.
- Morehead, Debby. ***A Special Place for Charlee***. Broomfield, Colo.: Partners in Publishing, 1996. A truly touching and sensitive story of a little boy and how he deals with the death of his best friend and canine companion, Charlee. With expressive pen and ink illustrations, this is a good book to accompany any child through the grief of losing a companion animal.
- Peet, Bill. ***The Gnats of Knotty Pine***. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1975. The animals of Knotty Pine Forest must come up with a plan to drive out the hunters. Luckily, the clever gnats come to the rescue and manage to save the day with their ingenious plan.
- Pilkey, Dav. ***'Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving***. New York: Orchard Books, 1990. A picture book illustrated with colorful scenes of eight school children on a field trip to a turkey farm. Horrified to learn the turkeys' fate, the children plan to help them escape.
- Sturla, Kim. ***Animal Place: Where Magical Things Happen***. [USA]: n.p., 1994. Kate and Joe visit Animal Place Refuge for the weekend and discover what good friends animals can be. They learn how to care for animals and that animals can love, too.
- Vignola, Radha. ***Victor the Vegetarian***. Santa Cruz, Calif.: Aviva!, 1994. Victor wants to save his two lambs when he hears about his father's plans to eat lamb chops. He runs away with the lambs and gets lost in the woods. When his parents find them, Victor has decided to be a vegetarian.
- Vignola, Radha. ***Victor's Picnic***. Santa Cruz, Calif.: Aviva!, 1996. A great follow up to Victor the Vegetarian. After deciding to be a vegetarian, Victor goes to the library to learn how to stay healthy without eating meat. On his way home, a deer invites him to a picnic where vegetarian animals share their food, and he learns what to eat to stay healthy.
- Wildsmith, Brian. ***Hunter and His Dog***. Oxford: Oxford University Press, reprinted 1989. The hunter's dog is taught to retrieve sticks, and sticks are what he brings every time the hunter shoots and wounds a duck. The dog carries the injured ducks to an island where he cares for them, bringing them bread from the hunter's table. One night, the hunter follows his dog to the island and is immediately ashamed of what he has done to the ducks.

### ---For Experienced Readers---

- Baylor, Byrd. ***I'm Hawk, I'm Your Brother***. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976. An Indian boy steals a young hawk from his nest. After realizing that the bird is unhappy, the boy sets him free.
- Byars, Betsy. ***The Midnight Fox***. New York: Viking Books, 1975. After Tomm saw the fox he thought, "There is a great deal of difference between seeing an animal in a zoo in front of painted fake rocks and trees and seeing one natural and free in the woods."

- Coates, Anna. ***Dog Magic***. New York: Bantam Books, 1991. When Matthew's dog learns to talk, Matthew learns about all the hardships dogs go through, especially when humans don't pay attention to how the animals feel. In this exciting mystery, Matthew and his sister, Kate, solve the case of the missing puppies, with the help of dogs Toby and Sergeant.
- Duel, Debra. ***William's Story***. Seattle: Storytellers Ink, 1992. This story is told from the point of view of an abandoned cat. It elaborates on the many threats to a domesticated animal and clearly defines what animals need from humans. The account is very moving, suitable to be read aloud and discussed as the story progresses.
- George, Jean Craighead. ***Julie of the Wolves***. New York: HarperCollins, 1974. In this amazing story, a young Eskimo girl lives with a pack of wolves and begins to speak their language.
- Girzone, Fr. Joseph F. ***Kara, The Lonely Falcon***. New York: Collier Books, 1979. Kara, the falcon, loses the desire to kill in this sophisticated fantasy story. As he learns to subsist on berries and plants, the other animals have to learn to accept his new way of living. Kara, who has never had a friend, becomes friends first with a dove whose life he saves and then befriends the other small animals in a fantastic way no bird of prey ever has before.
- Goodall, Jane. ***My Life With the Chimpanzees***. New York: Pocket Books, 1988. The famous primatologist describes her adventures in getting to know the chimpanzees of Gombe, Africa.
- Hurwitz, Johanna. ***Much Ado About Aldo***. New York: Puffin Books, 1978. A detailed, highly appealing story about Aldo, a curious third-grader who becomes passionate about a classroom science experiment. When he learns that some chameleons are to be put in the same tank as his beloved crickets, Aldo takes action. The story is convincingly told from a child's point of view.
- King-Smith, Dick. Ace: ***The Very Important Pig***. New York: Knopf, 1990. Farmer Tubbs and Ace-of-Clubs, the pig, understand each other, or at least Ace understands Farmer Tubbs and begins to train him to understand. Ace learns of the terrible fate awaiting him at the market and develops a plan to become a household pet. Not only does the plan bring Ace into the house; it makes him famous!
- LeRoy, Gen. ***Taxi Cat and Huey***. New York: HarperCollins, 1992. Told from the point of view of the very dignified basset hound Huey, this very funny novel explains how the family adopts a cat, Taxi, who Huey calls a "fur-covered disaster area." Taxi thinks he is a ninja warrior and tells Huey that a piece of string he plays with is his pet snake. Children will enjoy the antics of Huey and Taxi as they become friends.
- Locker, Thomas. ***The Mare on the Hill***. New York: Dial Books, 1985. A horse, mistreated by her first guardian, is gently taught to trust humans again.
- O'Brien, Robert C. ***The Secret of NIMH***. New York: Scholastic, 1982. [Also available on video.] Mrs. Frisby, the mother of a family of field mice, is terribly worried when her son, Timothy, becomes very ill with pneumonia. Since her husband is no longer alive, Mrs. Frisby must enlist the help of the rats and learn the secret of NIMH. By learning to read, the rats can do amazing things, like operate motors and use tools. This exciting story will keep readers of all ages on the edge of their seats.
- Weil, Zoe. ***So You Love Animals***. Animalearn: Jenkintown, Pa., 1994. This action-packed, fun-filled book teaches children what is happening to animals in our world. It offers hundreds of fun and exciting games, skits, experiments, and activities to help young people enjoy animals and nature and become involved in their protection.
- White, E.B. ***Charlotte's Web***. New York: Harper, 1952. [Also available on video.] How Charlotte the spider and farm girl Fern work together to save Wilbur the pig from slaughter.

### **---For Mature Students---**

- Ames, Mildred. ***Who Will Speak for the Lamb?*** New York: Harper and Row, 1989. Against the background of a tale of college romance, this novel describes a controversy over the use of animals in education and research. With an absorbing plot and sympathetic characters, the author asks her readers to consider whether all living creatures have the right to be free from exploitation.
- Krizmanic, Judy. ***A Teen's Guide to Going Vegetarian***. Middleborough, Mass.: Viking Children's Books, 1994. A youth-oriented look at what it means to be a vegetarian and why so many teens are choosing this lifestyle, this book is useful for teens who are already vegetarians or who are exploring vegetarianism as a possibility. It includes nutritional information, beginner's recipes, and useful resources.
- Patterson, Charles. ***Animal Rights***. Hillside, N.J.: Enslow Publishers, 1993. Written for young people, Animal Rights explores the ways in which animals are used for food and entertainment, as well as in experimentation and education. It also addresses the problem of puppy mills and the overpopulation and euthanasia of unwanted companion animals. The author presents a broad range of the concerns and viewpoints of people involved in the animal rights movement.
- Sewell, Anna. ***Black Beauty***. New York: Scholastic Books, 1877. [Also available on video.] This classic tale, excellent for reading aloud, is told from the point of view of Black Beauty, a horse who is sold to a cruel master. Black Beauty is sold and sold again until, after a terrible injury, he is lucky to find the right home.

***For more information, write or call New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance,  
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