

ANIMALS ARE LIKE US



The Golden Rule and You

Introduction

We can each make choices to ensure that we treat animals with compassion and respect at all times—and we can encourage others to do the same. The “Golden Rule” that we try to follow in our relationships with other people should also apply to our relationships with animals.

Procedure

Cut out the cards on the next page with examples of situations in which the Golden Rule is not being applied to animals. Have students form small groups, and distribute one card to each group. Ask them to discuss the following:

- How the situation fails to live up to the Golden Rule
- How they would change it to make it follow the Golden Rule
- How the situation reminds them of an experience from their own life

Have each group share their responses with the whole class.

Common Core Supplemental Activity

Since “The Golden Rule and You” activity will most likely spark significant memories and help students make connections to experiences from their own lives, it can be used to inspire personal narrative writing. Have students use the writing prompt below to create their own personal narrative.

Personal Narrative Writing Prompt

“Think about a time when you became aware of a situation in which the Golden Rule was not being applied to an animal. Explain how the situation failed to live up to the Golden Rule and what you did in that situation. What would you do next time or encourage others to do?”

Here are some options for mini-lessons to target specific skills and help students develop their writing:

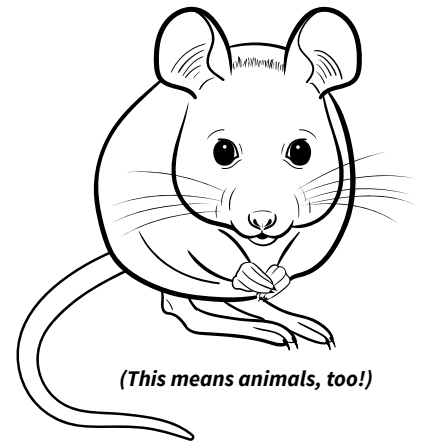
- Use a storyboard as a pre-writing activity. (Create a logical sequence of events visually.)
- Establish the situation. (Describe the setting and the challenging situation that the animal is in.)
- Introduce the characters. (Include humans and animals.)
- Add descriptive details. (Help the reader understand how the animal feels in that situation.)
- Use transitional words and phrases. (Tie your ideas together so that the reader clearly understands the sequence of events.)
- Create purposeful dialog. (Show what the animal characters are thinking or feeling about their situation.)
- Provide a sense of closure. (Send a message to the reader in your own words explaining how you interpret the Golden Rule and how to speak up for animals.)

Common Core Standards Addressed

W.3–5.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

SL.3–5.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.

**“TREAT OTHERS
THE WAY YOU WANT
TO BE TREATED.”**



(This means animals, too!)

You see someone hitting a cat for making a mess on the carpet.

How does this situation fail to live up to the Golden Rule?

How would you change the situation to make it follow the Golden Rule?

Does this situation remind you of any experience from your own life?

You see many people hurry past a bird with a broken wing who has fallen onto a busy sidewalk.

How does this situation fail to live up to the Golden Rule?

How would you change the situation to make it follow the Golden Rule?

Does this situation remind you of any experience from your own life?

On your way to and from school, you notice a dog on a short chain, with no food or water in sight.

How does this situation fail to live up to the Golden Rule?

How would you change the situation to make it follow the Golden Rule?

Does this situation remind you of any experience from your own life?

While walking in the woods, your best friend finds and takes home a turtle.

How does this situation fail to live up to the Golden Rule?

How would you change the situation to make it follow the Golden Rule?

Does this situation remind you of any experience from your own life?

There is a petting zoo at your friend's birthday party, and animals are being handled and surrounded by lots of strangers.

How does this situation fail to live up to the Golden Rule?

How would you change the situation to make it follow the Golden Rule?

Does this situation remind you of any experience from your own life?

Personal Narrative: _____

Think about a time when you became aware of a situation in which the Golden Rule was not being applied to an animal. Explain how the situation failed to live up to the Golden Rule and what you did in that situation. What would you do next time or encourage others to do?

“TREAT OTHERS THE WAY YOU WANT TO BE TREATED.”

