

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” says that we should treat others the way we want to be treated. We should follow this rule in our relationships with other humans, and it should also apply to our relationships with animals.

Procedure

The cards on the next page give examples of situations in which the Golden Rule is not being applied to animals. For each one, students will answer the following questions in groups:

- Is the animal being treated according to the Golden Rule?
- How would they change the situation to make it follow the Golden Rule?
- How does the situation remind them of an experience from their own lives?

Read the first situation aloud, and display the image of a cat (use the image from the Visual Support Guide, which can be accessed at SharetheWorld.org/VisualSupportGuide), on the board.

Read each question, allow time for discussion in small groups, and then discuss as a class.

Do the same for the other four situations. You may wish to distribute copies of the cards to students.

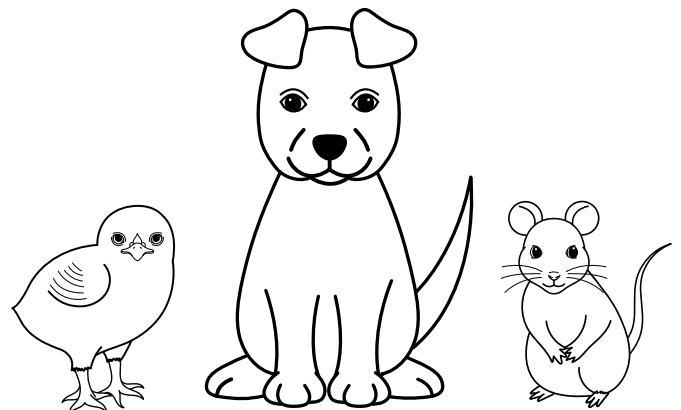
For situation 4, make sure that the students understand that the wooded habitat was the turtle’s home.

For situation 5, make sure that the students understand from the animals’ point of view what it would be like to be handled and surrounded by strangers.

Have each group share its responses with the whole class.

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

(This means animals, too!)



The Golden Rule and You (cont'd.)

Common Core Supplemental Activity

Since “The Golden Rule and You” activity is likely to 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

“Write about a time when you knew that someone was not following the Golden Rule with an animal. What happened? What did you do? What would you do next time or tell others to do?”

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

- Include a beginning, a middle, and an ending. (Help readers follow the story.)
- Add details. (Help readers picture the story in their own minds.)

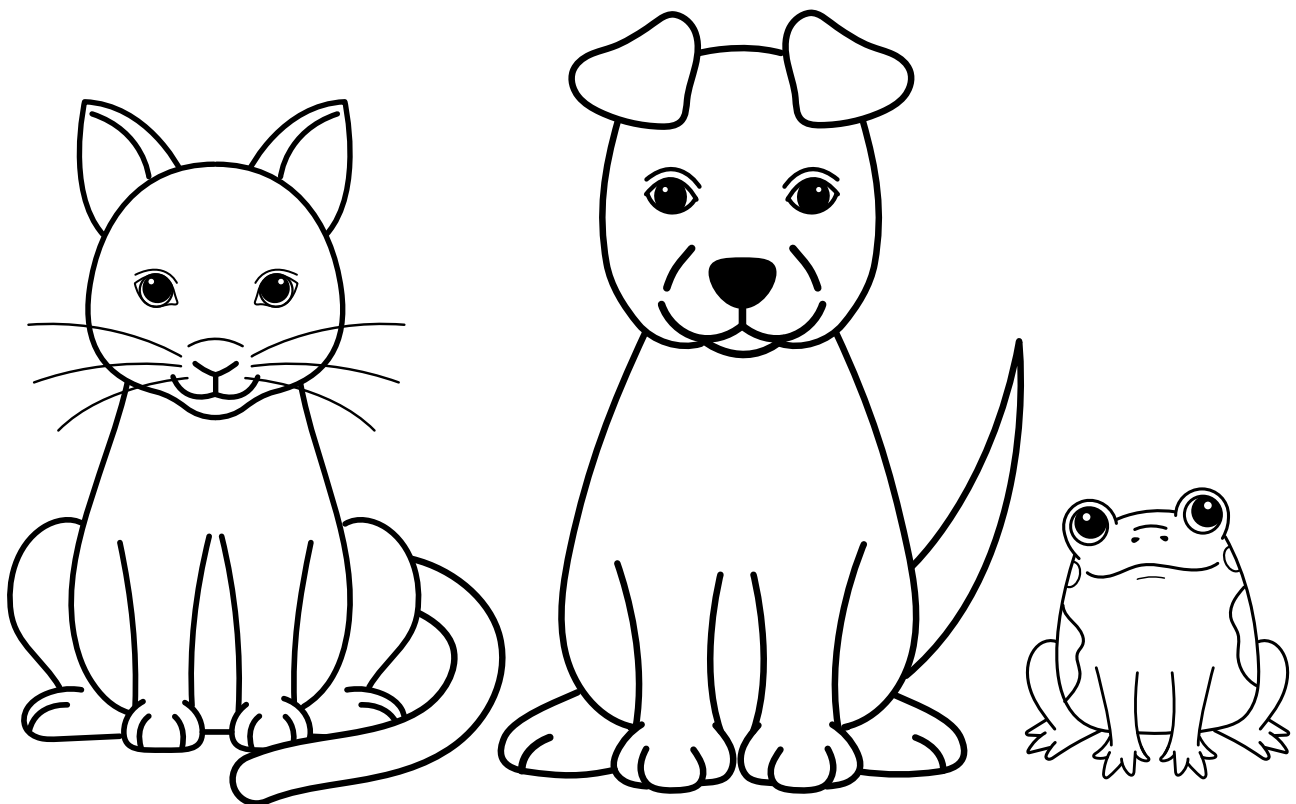
Common Core Standards Addressed

W.K.3: Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and provide a reaction to what happened.

W.1.3: Write narratives in which they recount two or more appropriately sequenced events, include some details regarding what happened, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide some sense of closure.

W.2.3: Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.

SL.K–2.1: Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade-level topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.



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

Is the animal being treated according 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?

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

Is the animal being treated according 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?

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

Is the animal being treated according 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?

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

Is the animal being treated according 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?

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

Are the animals being treated according 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?

Name _____ Date _____

The Golden Rule and You

Who?

(Name the human and the animal.)

What?

(What happened? What did you do?)

When?

(When did it happen?)

Where?

(Where did it happen?)

What would you tell others to do?

The Golden Rule and You

Personal Narrative

Beginning	Middle	Ending	Tell Others to ...