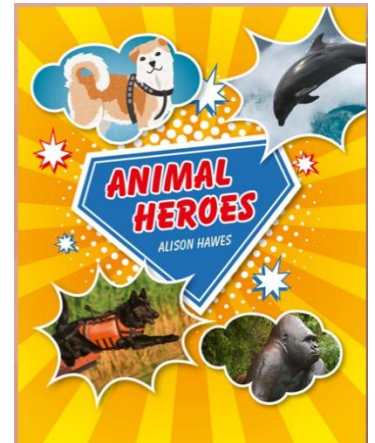


Week 1 of Home Learning - Year 4

Suggested reading/ writing activities for children in Y4 based around the new book 'Animal Heroes' Rising Stars KS2 – VENUS – Brown B .

This book explores the many ways in which animals have become heroes to humans, by saving lives, caring for others, and so on. Organised into chapters, the book explores how animals help us and recounts true stories of animal heroism using a range of text genres. The book includes a wide range of non-fiction features to develop the children's understanding of how information texts work, and different ways of presenting and retrieving information. These nonfiction features include a contents page, captions, newspaper-style reports, an interview section, 'Did you know?' boxes, case studies, bulleted and numbered lists, a glossary and an index.



Before Reading

Look at the front cover. Ask: What will you find in this book? Do you think the book is fiction or non-fiction? Information books can also tell stories that really happened.

What makes a hero? Spend some time discussing what qualities a hero has, and make a list of these qualities (e.g. courage, kindness, loyalty, selflessness). Discuss whether animals can show these qualities.

What heroes can you think of in your local community?

While Reading

- **Chapter 1** : Read the first chapter of the book (pages 2–7) Read the text at the top of page 2.
- Ask: What is the purpose of this text? *It introduces the topic of the book and the author's definition of an animal hero. It includes a list of the different qualities that animal heroes have.*
- Ask: How do we know how the text is organised? You could refer back to the contents page as this shows where things are in the book. *The heading says what's covered in the chapter and there are sub-headings to introduce different sections, such as the story of Hachiko on page 4.*
- **Chapters 2-5** : As you read the book , look more closely at some of the different ways that information is presented.
- **News reports** (pages 12–13, 14): Ask: Where do you think an article like this would appear? *Answers could include newspapers, magazines or websites.*
What do you think the large text (headline) is for? *It sums up what the story is about but also makes the reader want to find out the details. Information about where and when the story happened is given under the headline.* Pictures also try to interest people in reading the story

and show important details. Why is the dog shown with a police car on page 13? The text is written as a recount (as described earlier).

- **Case studies** (pages 9, 15, 23): Ask: Why is this a useful way of giving examples of animal heroes? *The text is organised into different sections so readers can easily find the information they want; the case studies include similar sections.*

- **Interview** (page 29): Note how the questions and answers are indicated in bold with the letters 'Q' and 'A'.

Ask: Why is this interview included? *It gives a personal story of what it's like to have an animal helper.*

Note that Jackie the interviewee uses 'I' and does not always use full sentences (e.g. 'A huge difference!'), which we often do when we speak. This is unlike the rest of the book, which is more formal. You could also note here how Jackie uses the pronoun 'she' to refer to Babs once the dog has been introduced. If Jackie repeated the dog's name every time, the text would be repetitive.

Pages 36–37: Ask: What do you think is the purpose of the text on page 37? *This conclusion summarises what the reader has learned from the stories that have gone before. It compares animal heroes to the qualities that make human heroes.*

Suggested Follow up Activities

- While some of the stories in this book are one-off examples of heroism, some animals are helping humans every day, such as guide dogs or dogs used in therapy. Do you know a hero animal? Can you describe your own hero animals. It could be a pet – or a story you may have been told. You could write a profile of your animal hero, including a picture, explaining what makes it special. Use this book as inspiration for the different text types you could write.
- Rewrite your favourite animal story from the book as a cartoon strip. Use only pictures, short captions and speech bubbles to tell your story.
- Make a medal of honour that could be given to one of the animals in this book, or to animal heroes in general. What pictures will you include? What will it say on the medal?
- Write a job description for an animal hero or make a 'Wanted – Animal Hero' poster. Remember to include all of the qualities you would want from the animal hero

Don't forget to complete the on line quiz to test you understanding when you have finished !

Thanks for all the hard work, if your parents or carers could take a photo and email it to us on the Y4 emails , we'd love to see it ! Mrs Burns and Mr Fairclough

Pirate vs Explorer

Name: _____ Date: _____

Kit list

- 1 If you decided to become a pirate or an explorer, what are the things you would need to take with you on your voyage? Use the book to help you put together a list of the things you would take.

If you were a pirate, you might need a black and white flag. An explorer could take a curly white wig.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- 2 Write some sentences to explain why you would need these items. Be as descriptive as you can!

I would need to take some good earplugs because of the loud blast from the cannons.
