

# Animal Celebration Page — Learning Prompts & Challenges

## ANIMAL CELEBRATION PAGE

Learning Prompts & Challenges

By Sir Chewy and Lady Ariarose

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## TEACHER CORNER & CHALLENGE PROMPTS

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### AARDVARK

No specific challenge listed. Research prompt suggested:

- Dig into armadillo facts and find out what makes them living fossils.
  - How would YOU prove to Sir Chewy that an armadillo is not a dog?
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### BEAR

- Sir Chewy says bears can't be dogs because they make humans run. Is he right that you should never run from a bear?
  - Look up NPS Bear Safety Tips. What should you actually do if you encounter a bear?
  - Winnie the bear inspired one of the most beloved characters in children's literature. Can you find another real animal that inspired a famous fictional one?
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### BIRD

- Cher Ami flew 25 miles in 25 minutes with one leg, blind in one eye, shot through the breast. He delivered the message. 194 soldiers walked out alive. 360 did not. What does that tell us about the cost of failed communication?
  - G.I. Joe saved 100 soldiers and countless civilians. He was the first non-British recipient of the Dickin Medal. Research the Dickin Medal. What other animals have received it and why?
  - Sir Chewy says some animals are citizens not just residents. What do you think that means? Do you agree?
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## CAT

- Sir Chewy says cats chose the pantry. Dogs chose the human. Is there a difference between being chosen and choosing?
- Tama the stationmaster cat saved a railway with her presence alone. How does one life change an outcome?
- Unsinkable Sam survived three shipwrecks. Sir Chewy says he would have caught more rats. Lady Ariarose says sometimes someone does something better and instead of making excuses we should ask for tips. When have you done that?
- TEACHER PROJECT: When someone does something better than us, what is the most useful response?



## CHEETAH

- Sir Chewy found something on the internet and used it as proof. He didn't cross-check it.
- TEACHER PROJECT: Is Chewy right that cheetahs use their tails like a rudder? Research it properly. What does cross-checking sources look like? Why does it matter?
- Cheetahs have dropped to fewer than 7,000 in the wild. What can one person do about a number that large?



## DOLPHIN

- The US Navy trains dolphins the same way they train police dogs. There are ethical concerns about this. What are both sides of that argument?
- KDog served in the Persian Gulf. His name suggests someone understood he was a dog cousin. Sir Chewy was very moved by this. Why do names matter?



## DRAGON

- Every culture on earth independently dreamed dragons. Why do you think that is?
- Some things thought to be myth have later been found to exist. Can you find an example?
- TEACHER PROJECT: How old is recorded history? Do dragons predate it? What assumptions do we make about things we haven't found yet?
- Lady Ariarose writes herself as a character and someone told her no one would be that way. She is a real person. What does that say about assumptions?



## ELEPHANT

- The rope story. A baby elephant learns it cannot escape a tiny post. It grows enormous and still stays. It was taught helplessness.
- Lady Ariarose says this happens to people too. Can you think of an example where someone stopped trying because they learned they couldn't when they actually could?
- TEACHER PROJECT: What is learned helplessness? Where does it show up in real life? How do you recognize it in yourself?
- Dumbo's ears made him different. They were also his greatest gift. Have you ever had something that felt like a weakness that turned out to be a strength?



## GOAT

- The Billy Goat Curse lasted 71 years over one moment of disrespect. Does that seem fair? Does fairness matter in a curse?
- Studies show goats have similar intelligence to dogs and can follow human pointing gestures. What does that tell us about how we decide what is intelligent?
- What looks like stubbornness in a goat is often careful risk assessment. Can you think of a time you were called stubborn when you were actually being careful?



## HORSE

- Seabiscuit lost his first 17 races. His best friend was a stray dog named Pocatell. Together they gave a nation hope during the Great Depression. Why do companions matter so much to performance?
- Shadowfax chose Gandalf. Gandalf didn't break him. What is the difference between choosing someone and being forced?
- Black Beauty helped change how people treated animals. A book written from an animal's perspective changed real behavior. How does perspective change what we are willing to do?



## KANGAROO

- Kangaroos can only move forward. They cannot walk backward. This is on the Australian coat of arms deliberately. What does that say about how a nation wants to see itself?
- Sir Chewy says Roo should hop out of the pouch already. Lady Ariarose says he supervises the bathroom out of professional duty. What is the difference between dependence and devotion?



## LION

- Christian the lion remembered his humans after a year wild in Africa. He ran to them. Sir Chewy says this proves lions are dogs. Lady Ariarose says love is real regardless of category. Which argument do you find more interesting and why?
- Simba was told to remember who he was. Four words. What four words would you use to remind yourself who you are?
- There were 200,000 lions in the early twentieth century. Fewer than 25,000 remain. That happened in one human lifetime. What does one lifetime mean at that scale?



## **MONKEY**

- Albert II was the first monkey to reach space. He did not come back. Miss Baker lived to 27. People still leave bananas on her grave. What do we owe the lives that made our discoveries possible?
- Koko the gorilla loved a cat. When the cat died she signed sad and cry. Sir Chewy needed a moment. What does grief tell us about what matters to a creature?
- TEACHER PROJECT: What is the difference between a monkey, a baboon, and a gorilla? Donkey Kong is a gorilla not a monkey. Why does the distinction matter?



## **OXEN AND BULLS**

- Ferdinand refused to fight because he would rather smell flowers. Everyone expected him to be fierce because he was large. Have you ever been expected to be something you are not because of how you look?
- Elsie the Cow received a Doctor of Bovinity and a Doctor of Economics. Sir Chewy wants a Doctor of Puppy Love. What would your honorary degree be in and why?



## **PANTHER**

- Panthers are called Ghosts of the Forest. The Florida Panther has fewer than 200 remaining. What does it mean to lose a ghost?
- Bagheera protected Mowgli not because he was asked to but because the cub needed it. Have you ever looked out for someone who needed it without being asked?



## **PIG**

- Babe won a sheepdog trial. A pig. Lady Ariarose says when someone does a job well it doesn't matter who or what they are. Sir Chewy has complicated feelings about this. Who do you agree with and why?

- Wilbur just wanted to live and have friends. Charlotte saved him by writing words about him. What words would you write about someone you wanted to protect?
- Pigs are naturally clean animals who roll in mud only to cool themselves because they cannot sweat. When have you misunderstood why someone did something because you didn't know the full picture?



## **RABBIT**

- Beatrix Potter wrote a letter to a sick child to cheer him up. That letter became one of the bestselling children's books in history with 45 million copies sold. She wrote it for one person. What does that say about writing for the one who needs it?
- Peter Piper played the tambourine. Sir Rabi of Weedonium cleared the weeds in exchange for finished produce. Both deserve to be remembered. Who in your life deserves to be remembered that history might miss?



## **RAT**

- The Black Plague killed one third of Europe. Rats were the carriers. Sir Chewy wants revenge. Lady Ariarose says all lives matter even rats.
- TEACHER PROJECT: Is there a good rat out there somewhere? Sir Chewy is too much a speciesist to look. Can you find one?
- Sir Chewy wants to lodge a formal complaint that the Dog is 11th in the Chinese Zodiac and the Rat is 1st. Lady Ariarose says every position has a story. Look up why the rat came first. What does that story teach?



## **SNAKE**

- Most snakes are harmless and prefer to avoid people entirely. Lady Ariarose says if you cannot identify a snake get out and call for help. What is the difference between fear based on ignorance and caution based on knowledge?
- The caduceus with two snakes represents healing. One snake hurts, one heals. Can you think of something else where the same thing can both hurt and heal?
- Lady Ariarose says she doesn't see anyone's beliefs as fictional even when she disagrees. What is the difference between disagreeing with a belief and dismissing it?



## **SKUNK**

- Sir Chewy fought Sir Stunk A Lot fifteen times, was hit twice, retreated on the third when it stung, and the skunk never returned. He calls this winning the war. Lady Ariarose says she would have just barked. What is the

difference between persistence and stubbornness?

- Skunks give significant warning before spraying. Stomping. Hissing. Raising the tail. Sir Chewy ignored all of it fifteen times. What warnings do we ignore because we are determined to win?



## **SQUIRREL**

- Squirrels forget where they buried things. Those forgotten caches grow into forests. They have planted more forests than any other creature on earth by accident. What have you left behind that grew into something larger than you intended?
- Twiggy the water skiing squirrel became a water safety ambassador and wore a tiny life jacket. She got her name from destroying houseplants. What unexpected thing became the thing you are known for?



## **TIGER**

- Machli the tigress defeated a fourteen foot crocodile to protect her cubs. She lived to nineteen years, nearly twice the average wild tiger lifespan. She was given a state funeral attended by hundreds. What does one life mean when it is fully lived?
- There were 100,000 wild tigers a hundred years ago. Fewer than 4,000 remain. That is a 96 percent collapse in one human lifetime. Sir Chewy says he cannot fix this by himself but he can tell us and hope we remember. What can one small voice actually do?



## **WHALE**

- Keiko was freed because millions of children cared. It was not the ending the movie promised. But orca breeding programs changed. SeaWorld ended its breeding program. Lady Ariarose says sometimes doing what you think is right is the wrong decision but that doesn't mean we were wrong to try. When is trying the right thing even when the outcome is not?
- Whales carry their deceased calves for days. They grieve. What does grief tell us about love?



## **ZEBRA**

- Khumba was born with half his stripes and blamed for a drought. What he was born different as was actually what was needed. What makes you different from what your community expects? Is it possible that difference is needed somewhere?
- The Quagga went extinct in 1883. The last one has a photograph but no name. The Quagga Project is trying to bring back the appearance through selective breeding. Is a recreation the same as the original? Does it matter?

- Zebras cannot be domesticated the way horses can. They are too aware of danger to submit to being controlled. Lady Ariarose says respect the difference. What is the difference between something that looks familiar and something that actually is?



## **DOGS — TOP DOGS**

- Sir Chewy says 1,304 films feature dogs. Horses come second with 970. Cats are third with 644. **TEACHER CHALLENGE:** If you add up all the animals Sir Chewy claimed as mislabeled dogs, what is the total film credit count?
- Sir Chewy lists every service dogs do that cats do not. Lady Ariarose says cats make great emotional support animals and do therapy work. Who is right? Can both be right?
- Smoky the Yorkshire Terrier weighed four pounds and earned eight battle stars in World War II. Sir Chewy weighs fourteen pounds and is on a diet he despises. What is the relationship between size and impact?
- Sir Chewy wants to be promoted from Mister Chewy to Sir Chewy. He is in negotiations. Lady Ariarose is tough but he is tougher. What title would you give yourself and what would you have to earn it?