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## Teachers Guide

SENIOR EDITION: RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 5-6

*The theme of Kind News is kindness to people and animals and respect for natural habitats.* Its emphasis on humane values, such as fairness, compassion and responsibility encourages good character in children and its colorful design, simple vocabulary and engaging subject matter help instill reading habits.

You are now receiving the **Senior edition** of *Kind News*. If you prefer a less challenging reading level, you may switch to the **Junior edition**. Please allow 6-8 weeks for your new edition to arrive.

### SUBSCRIPTION QUESTION?

WE WILL BE HAPPY TO HELP YOU. PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

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#### KIND NEWS

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# kind NEWS™

## Teachers Guide

APR/MAY  
2015

SENIOR EDITION  
RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 5-6

In spring, many wild animals give birth and try to raise their young in a safe environment. But as we develop more and more land, building homes, businesses and the infrastructure to support them, we encroach on their natural habitats. Conflicts with wildlife occur, but it's important for children to know that there are ways to peacefully coexist with our wild neighbors. From sharing a beach with harbor seals to being courteous to wild critters near our homes, this issue encourages kids to respect the wildlife around them.



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**FLIP OVER!**

Turn the page for  
Common Core  
activities to use in  
your classroom.

## COMMON CORE-ALIGNED ACTIVITIES

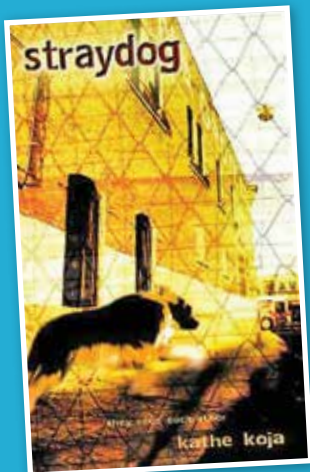
**SL.5.2 Summarize a written text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively and orally.** Read aloud the following poem by Susan Blackaby: *Strand by strand a spider strings/Her scaffold stalk to stem/And when a passerby drops by/Midflight, she draws him in/Across the gauzy threshold/Into her homespun home/He sticks around 'til dinnertime/(She never eats alone).* Ask students to explain what is happening in the poem. What does Blackaby mean by the last line? How does the poet use imagery to tell her story? What happens next?

**W.5.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.** If harbor seals could understand what some people did to protect them in La Jolla, California, what do you think they would say? Write a letter from a harbor seal mom. Tell what the seal would like to say to people who care about protecting them.

**Free Webinars!** Humane Society Academy is offering free webinars on humane education topics including: "The Magic of Stories: Encouraging Empathy Through Narrative." Also available is a series on creating and maintaining a humane backyard. For details, visit [humanesociety.org/HSAwebinars](http://humanesociety.org/HSAwebinars). Click on "Humane Education."

## BOOK NOOK

In *Stray Dog*, by Kathe Koja, kids meet Rachel, a bright, sensitive young teen and self-proclaimed misfit. Rachel doesn't seem to fit in anywhere, but her creative writing provides one outlet for her emotions. Volunteering at an animal shelter provides another. There, she meets a feral dog—a beaten, injured collie mix whom she is convinced she can socialize. This diary-like chronicle promotes appreciation for shelters, empathy for unwanted animals and insight into the life of a stray.



FRONT PANEL: MICHAEL STUBBLEFIELD/ALAMY

THIS PAGE: ARCO IMAGES/GM/BH/ALAMY; BACK PAGE: MONKEYBUSINESSIMAGES/ISTOCK

## ANSWER KEY

### Critter Clues FROM PAGE 7

**Our mystery critter is a dolphin.** Dolphins are mammals, not fish. Like all mammals, they are warm-blooded and give birth to live young who feed on their mother's milk. 🐬 Dolphins are social animals who live in large groups (called pods), often remaining in close family groups throughout their lives. They can dive deep in the ocean, but must surface to breathe air through a blowhole on top of the head. If a member of the pod is injured or sick, others will nudge the animal to the surface for air.

🐬 Sadly, keeping dolphins in captivity for entertainment removes them from their families and prevents them from enjoying many of their natural behaviors.

**Bonus activity:** After students have guessed the mystery critter, ask them to do some research to answer this question: What are two things that dolphins and bats share?

**Answer:** They are both mammals and both use echolocation to navigate and locate food (dolphins through water, bats through the air). Using echolocation, they bounce sound off objects and then listen for the echoes coming back to them.



### Kind Quiz / RI.5.1

FROM PAGE 8

- 1 There are not enough homes for all of the cats and dogs born every day in this country. Spaying and neutering operations keep pets from adding to the problem.
- 2 Students' answers will vary.
- 3 Similar to most moms, wild animal moms want to raise their babies in a safe, warm place.
- 4 Like all marine mammals, harbor seals are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.
- 5 Babies may be left behind and the animals may face danger from predators and be unable to find food.
- 6 Students' answers will vary.

### Online Worksheet

A TALE OF TWO CRITTERS

- 1 A raccoon family has moved into their cabin, disrupting their planned peaceful weekend.
- 2 The raccoon mom found a nice, safe place to raise her babies and the arrival of the humans may cause her to relocate.
- 3 There didn't appear to be anyone living in the cabin, and the chimney was safe from the weather and predators.
- 4 Students' answers will vary.
- 5 Students' captions will vary.

### Haiku! How About You? FROM PAGE 7

Students' haiku will vary.

Though it's a story book for younger children, your students may enjoy taking a look at *Dogku* by Andrew Clements. This fun story of a stray dog who shows up on a family's back step is told entirely in haiku!

**Take our survey!** We want to know how we can make *Kind News* work for you. Visit [humanesociety.org/kindnews](http://humanesociety.org/kindnews) and fill out our short survey. As a thank-you, we'll send you a gift to use in your classroom.