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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™

## Teachers Guide

OCT/NOV  
2016

SENIOR EDITION  
RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 5-6

Most fads—dance crazes, the latest fashions—tend to be harmless. As this issue of *Kind News* illustrates, however, purchasing a “pet of the moment” can have disastrous results for the animal and cause harm to the environment. With the release of Disney/Pixar’s film, *Finding Dory*, animal protection and conservation groups are urging consumers not to buy fish like Dory, a royal blue tang, or other wild-caught fishes as pets. They have complex needs that cannot be replicated in home aquariums, resulting in high mortality rates. Most saltwater species offered for sale for home aquariums are captured in the wild, often using cyanide that kills corals and other animals.



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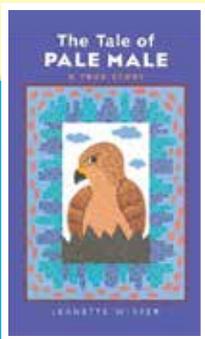
Turn the page for  
Common Core  
activities to use in  
your classroom.

## COMMON CORE-ALIGNED ACTIVITIES

**RI.5.8 Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text, identifying which reasons and evidence support which points.** Discuss “Fad pets, sad pets” with your class. Ask students what the author is trying to convey in the piece. Can they point to places in the text where the author gives reasons and/or evidence to support his or her opinion? Which of these points do they believe are the strongest arguments? The weakest? Was the author successful in getting the point across? What else might have worked?

**W.5.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.** Noah Webster was born on October 16, 1758. Ask students to pretend that they were working with Webster when he published the first American dictionary in 1806. Have each student write a positive dictionary entry describing a wild animal of their choosing.

**W.5.10 Write routinely for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes and audiences.** If you’re receiving *Kind News* as a gift in the Adopt-a-Classroom program, the month of November is the perfect time to send a note thanking your adopter for his or her generosity. We’re sure your adopter would love to hear from you and your students.



## BOOK NOOK

After students have guessed this month’s mystery critter, they can learn more about New York City’s famous red-tailed hawk in *The Tale of Pale Male* by Jeanette Winter, a true story that has

become near-legendary. After Pale Male (named for his paler-than-normal feathers) and his mate build a nest on a high-rise apartment building, controversy arises. Some building residents want the nest removed, claiming that the birds make too much of a mess with their food and droppings; others come to admire and adore the urban hawks. Removal of the nest (all 400 pounds of it!) results in a massive public outcry to restore it. A delightful, easy read for wildlife-watchers and animal-lovers of all ages—even if you already know this tale’s happy ending.



## ANSWER KEY

### Critter Clues FROM PAGE 7

**Our mystery critter is a red-tailed hawk.** Red-tails are birds of prey known for their spectacular soaring and hunting skills. In courtship, males soar high in the sky where they perform amazing dives and acrobatics to impress females—even catching prey and delivering it to their intended mates in mid-air. 🦅 When someone says that a person has “eyes like a hawk,” they mean that the person has excellent eyesight. Hawks perch up high to watch the ground below for unsuspecting prey such as mice, rabbits, squirrels and snakes. Then they swoop down, grabbing the prey in their sharp talons. The birds build large nests out of sticks, leaves and bark. 🦅 Red-tailed hawks make a high-pitched, scream like sound. 🦅 Pale Male is a famous red-tailed hawk who has nested on a tall apartment building in New York City for many years. Removal of his nest by building management in 2004 resulted in major protests from animal lovers, and Pale Male and his family were eventually allowed to return.

### Online Activity Sheet SOMETHING'S FISHY

- 1 parrotfish (When closed, a parrotfish’s mouth looks like a parrot’s beak. Parrotfish use their “beaks” to scrape algae from coral, which helps keep the coral healthy.)
- 2 porcupinefish (When frightened, porcupinefish swallow water, causing their bodies to puff up and their spines to stick out.)
- 3 surgeonfish (On either side of their tailfins, these fish have razor-sharp, bony keels that can cut as effectively as a surgeon’s knife.)
- 4 catfish (After locating food with their whiskers, catfish scoop it up in their wide mouths.)
- 5 angelfish (Among the most colorful species of fish, angelfish blend in well with their coral reef habitat.)
- 6 flashlight fish (Bacteria that collect in pouches under their eyes give off a greenish glow that helps flashlight fish fend off predators, attract mates and see in dark water.)

### Kind Quiz FROM PAGE 8

- 1 Squirrels bury acorns and other nuts to store them for the winter.
- 2 Adult blue tangs can reach a foot long and require a fish tank three times larger than the average home tank—about the size of a couch.
- 3 Students’ answers will vary.
- 4 It keeps sick and weak babies warm while they gain strength.
- 5 Putting trash out at night invites nocturnal animals, such as raccoons, to tip them over to feed on trash.
- 6 When they sense danger, woodchucks make a high-pitched whistle to warn others in their colony.

### Picture perfect Halloween FROM PAGE 7

Do you get chills when a black cat crosses your path? Black cats have long been symbols of bad luck. Many years ago, they were seen as devils or evil spirits. Today, they’re well-known symbols of Halloween.

Of course, cats aren’t evil. They make great friends! Be a good friend in return. Keep your cats indoors, especially around Halloween. You’ll be protecting them not only from cars, but also from anyone thinking of playing a mean Halloween prank.

Halloween can be a scary time for pets. Costumes and loud sounds from trick-or-treaters can frighten them. Open doors are also dangerous, allowing pets to run outside. Find a nice, quiet spot at home where your pets will feel peaceful and safe. Happy Halloween!