

# Lesson 26: Animal Friends

*"Animals are such agreeable friends, they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms." —George Eliot*

**Social Justice Standard: Identity 5**

## Summary

Animals can be powerful friends for all people, young and old. They can be a source of comfort after a hard day, confidence to get you through a difficult situation, or cuddles when you need a hug! In the following lesson, you'll find many different animals and people experiencing life together.

## Booklist

- *Not Norman: A Goldfish Story* by Kelly Bennett, illustrated by Noah Z. Jones
- *The Summer Nick Taught His Cats to Read* by Curtis Manley and Kate Berube
- *Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion* by Alex T. Smith
- *Lizard from the Park* by Mark Pett
- *Raising Dragons* by Jerdine Nolen, illustrated by Elise Primavera

## Consider This

- What is your best memory that involves an animal? And your worst?
- What is your favorite animal? Has that changed since you were young?
- How has your view on animals changed over the years?

## Talk Together

- Do you have animals in your life that are special to you?
- If you could have an imaginary pet, what would it be?
- Do the animals in these stories act more like animals or more like people?

## *Engage*

- Grab a pile of books and explore the animals in them. You can even make a tally of how many animals in each book, or you can keep track of how many of a certain kind of animal is present.
- Play animal charades! Act out an animal for your playmates to guess.
- Take a classic animal song, for example the “Itsy Bitsy Spider” and change the animal in the song. Create a new song to fit that animal but use the same tune.

## *Explore More*

- Parents’ Magazine’s “The Benefits of Pets for Kids”
- AACAP’s: “Pets and Children” (January 2019)