

ANIMAL ALLY



FOR THE ANIMALS

Nirvaan Agarwal is an animal-rights activist. He's on a mission to stop the mistreatment of animals.

LEXILE: 980L (800L alternate reading level)

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Individuals Development and Identity

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.3, RI.6-8.4, RI.6-8.9, W.6-8.2

ENGAGE THE READER

Tell students that they'll read about a 12-year-old animal-rights activist. Ask: What is an activist? What does an activist hope to accomplish? What traits would you expect an activist to have? Do you think kids your age can be effective activists? Why or why not? Have students keep their responses in mind as they read the article.

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- Where do you think Nirvaan finds his motivation for defending animal rights? What details in the article best capture his commitment to this cause?
- Can a person learn activism? Refer to specific details in the article.
- What does Nirvaan mean when he says, "You can slowly break down the pillars of a structure." What does his statement tell us about his work? What might it tell us about Nirvaan's character?

PAIRED TEXT AND WRITING

Pair this article with another about personal development. Have students choose from ["The Hero's Journey" \(August 25, 2023\)](#), ["From Athlete to Artist" \(April 21, 2023\)](#), or ["Girls Skate!" \(February 10, 2023\)](#). As they read the article, have them note these details: 1) the person's motivation and commitment; 2) how the person learned to do a particular kind of work; and 3) quotes that reveal something significant about the person's work or character. When they have finished reading, break students into small groups to share their findings and answer these questions: How are the people profiled in these articles similar in their pursuits, and how are they different? What do these articles tell us about accomplishing goals? Then give students time to reflect on their goals by having them write a brief profile of themselves, using the same kinds of details they found in the articles.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 3 of this guide.
To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

- 1. B (RI.4) 2. D (RI.3) 3. C (RI.1) 4. A (RI.1) 5. C (RI.6)**
6. A (RI.7) 7. Answers will vary. (W.8)



PUFFINS ON THE RISE

Atlantic puffins have made a comeback in Maine.

LEXILE: 870L (740L alternate reading level)

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Science, Technology, and Society

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.2, RI.6-8.4, RI.6-8.5, RI.6-8.7

BEFORE READING

Have students read the headline and examine the photo. Ask: What is the purpose of a headline? What does this headline tell us about the subject of the article? How do the photo and headline work together?

Review the 5W1H of a news article: *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, *why*, and *how*. Have students write these down as they read the article.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Which of the 5W1H do you see in the article's first, or lead, paragraph? Why is it important for a news article to start with this information?
- Don Lyons says there's still a lot to learn about how climate change is affecting ecosystems. What details in the article support his statement? What can this information tell us about scientific knowledge?



THE PET DOCTOR

A veterinarian offers insight into this tough yet rewarding profession.

LEXILE: 960L (790L alternate reading level)

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Science, Technology, and Society

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.3, RI.6-8.5, RI.6-8.8

BEFORE READING

Tell students that they'll read advice from a veterinarian on how to join the profession. Ask: What kinds of questions would you ask a veterinarian? Why might it be useful to seek advice from someone working in the field you aspire to work in?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Which of Edward's insights surprised you, and why?
- What challenges about the veterinary profession does Edward cite? Why might he emphasize these challenges?
- What profession do you aspire to work in? How might Edward's advice be useful to you?

CLOSING ACTIVITY

Have students think about the profession they would like to pursue. Then have them search online and make a list of people in their community who are working in that field. Review their lists, then have them each write to one of the people. Students could either invite the person to speak in class, or ask for advice on how to learn more about the profession. Have students share the responses they get with the class.

Name _____ Date _____

Use this week's cover story, "For the Animals," to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, you may use the back of this page.

<p>1. According to the article, what does it mean to be a vegan?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. to be vocal about animals' rights B. to eat no food that comes from animals C. to not use animals for entertainment D. to be a voice for animals because they can't speak for themselves 	<p>4. What strategy did Nirvaan learn at camp and then provide for readers in this article?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. how to hold a protest B. how to write a speech C. how to start a fundraiser D. how to become a chef
<p>2. What was the result of Nirvaan Agarwal's advocacy against the Johnson Park zoo?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The animals' health was in danger. B. Nirvaan got to speak before county officials. C. The zoo flooded. D. The animals from the zoo were moved to sanctuaries. 	<p>5. What does Nirvaan's quote in the first paragraph of "Looking Ahead" tell you about his views of activism?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. It's best to push for immediate change. B. You should go to a minimum of two protests a week. C. Activism can take a step-by-step approach. D. Becoming a vegan is a good place to start.
<p>3. Which organization gave Nirvaan recognition for his animal activism?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Kids All-Stars for Animals B. the Johnson Park zoo C. PETA D. a vegan activism camp 	<p>6. What information from the text does the last photo support?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Nirvaan hopes to become a chef and create vegan recipes. B. Nirvaan plans to continue to protest every week. C. Nirvaan began taking part in protests at the age of 3. D. Nirvaan feels like he can change the world.

7. If you were to protest for a cause, what would it be, and why?
