Animal Connections

A three year empathy-based continuum program
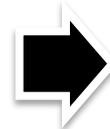
Grade 2 — Pets & Familiar Animals → Grade 3 — Native Wisconsin Wildlife → Grade 4 — Animals around the World
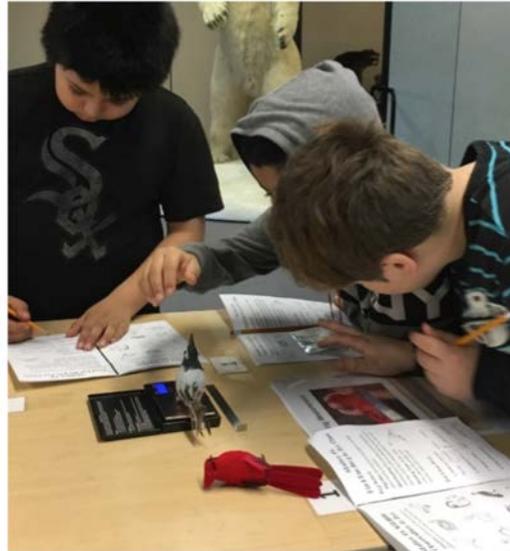
Grade 2

Self-awareness & personal

Grade 3

Social-awareness & community

Grade 4

Responsible decision making & global

Children's explanations for the emotions they ascribed to the animal guests

Emotion	Sample quotes
Excited	Because he/her get to meet new people.
	It's the animal's first time seeing me this year, after quite a while!
	Because when we are quiet he plays around and looks at us.
Sad	Because it's sad and nervous to see big giants.
	I think that the animal feels sad because he/she does this a lot and it never stops and nervous because she does not know us.
Happy	Because he is in a new place and he probably likes new people.
	Chloe realizes that I don't want to hurt her and she has decided I am safe to be around. She's also watching me!!
	I think the animal feels (happy) because she seen us more than once.
	She was in her playpen and she was running.
Nervous	It's a little animal & we're like giants to the chinchilla.
	They are sensitive.
	He's never met us before & it might be scary for him.
	Last year he was nervous and shaking a lot.
	The animal will feel nervous because he has never been out of the zoo.
Nothing	Because he has probably met kids and seen kids feeling the same way as we are.
Mixed emotions	(Feels) the good emotions because he has company! But he might be scared because he doesn't know us.

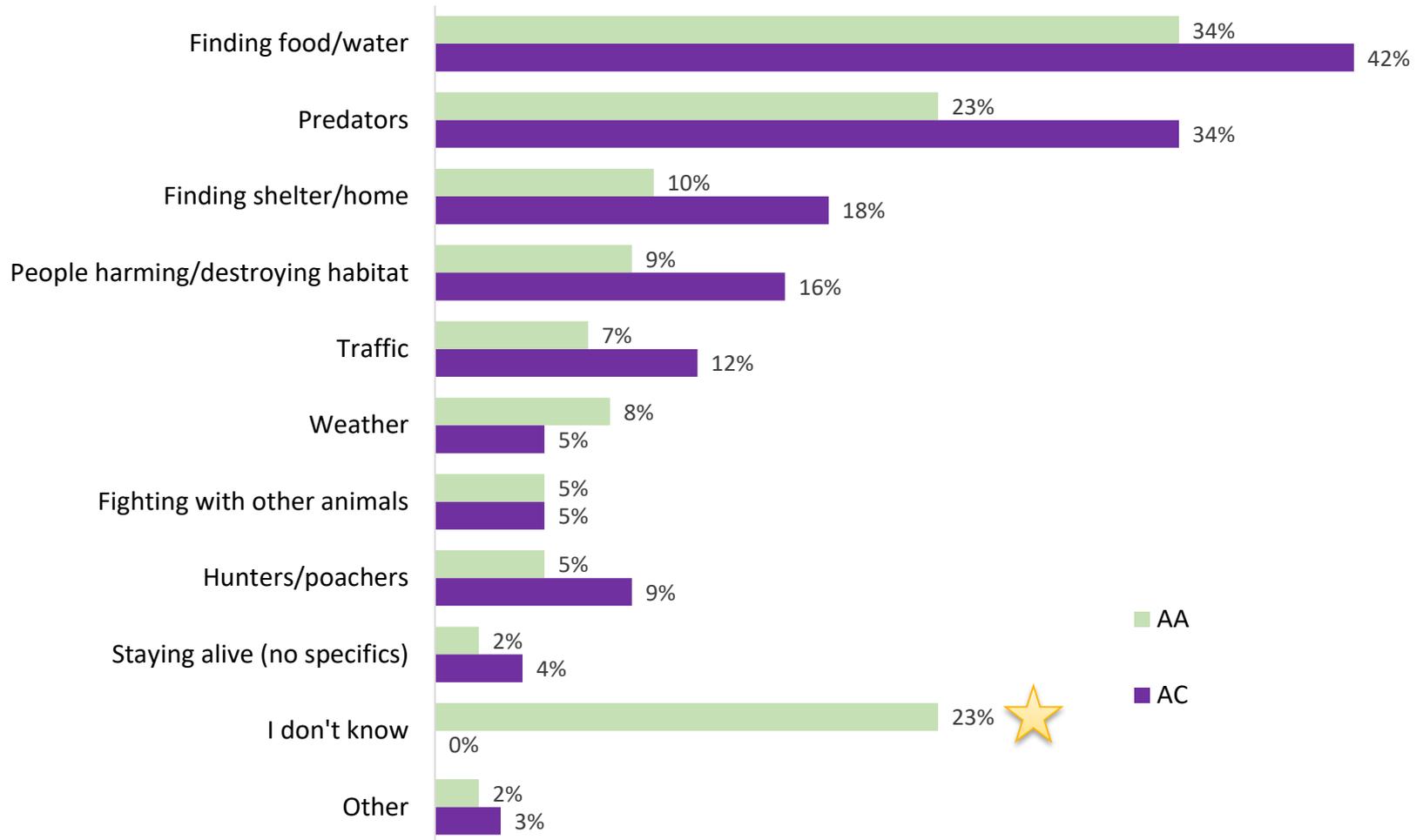**Grade 3, Post: Animal Ambassador students were more likely than Animal Connections students to define empathy as feeling bad for someone, and less likely to see it as understanding how another feels.**
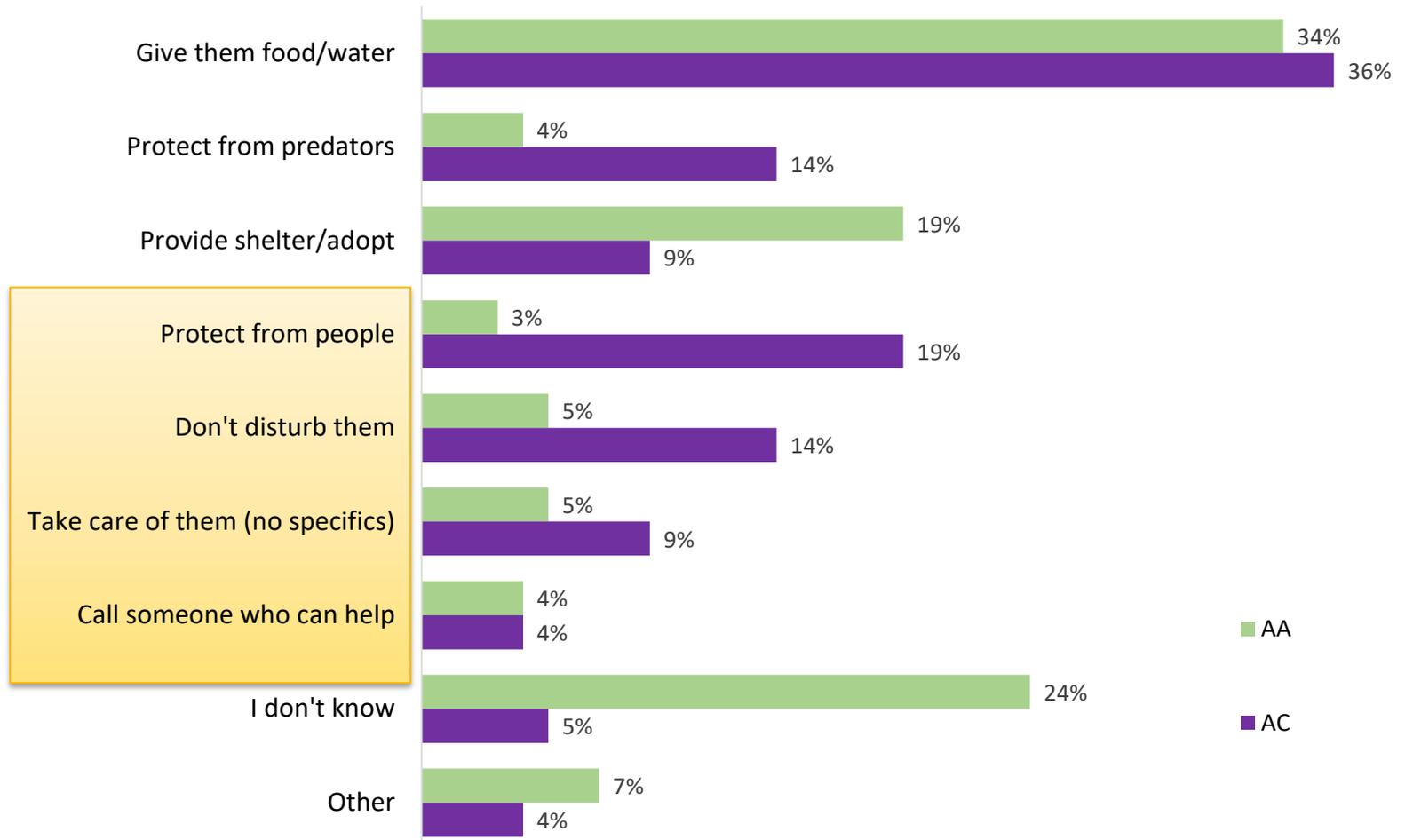
Feel bad for them
- 10%
- 0

Care how they feel
- 25%
- 30%

Be nice to them
- 25%
- 21%

Understand how they feel
- 21%
- 31%

Feel the way they do
- 15%
- 16%

Treat with respect
- 4%
- 3%

AA post
AC post
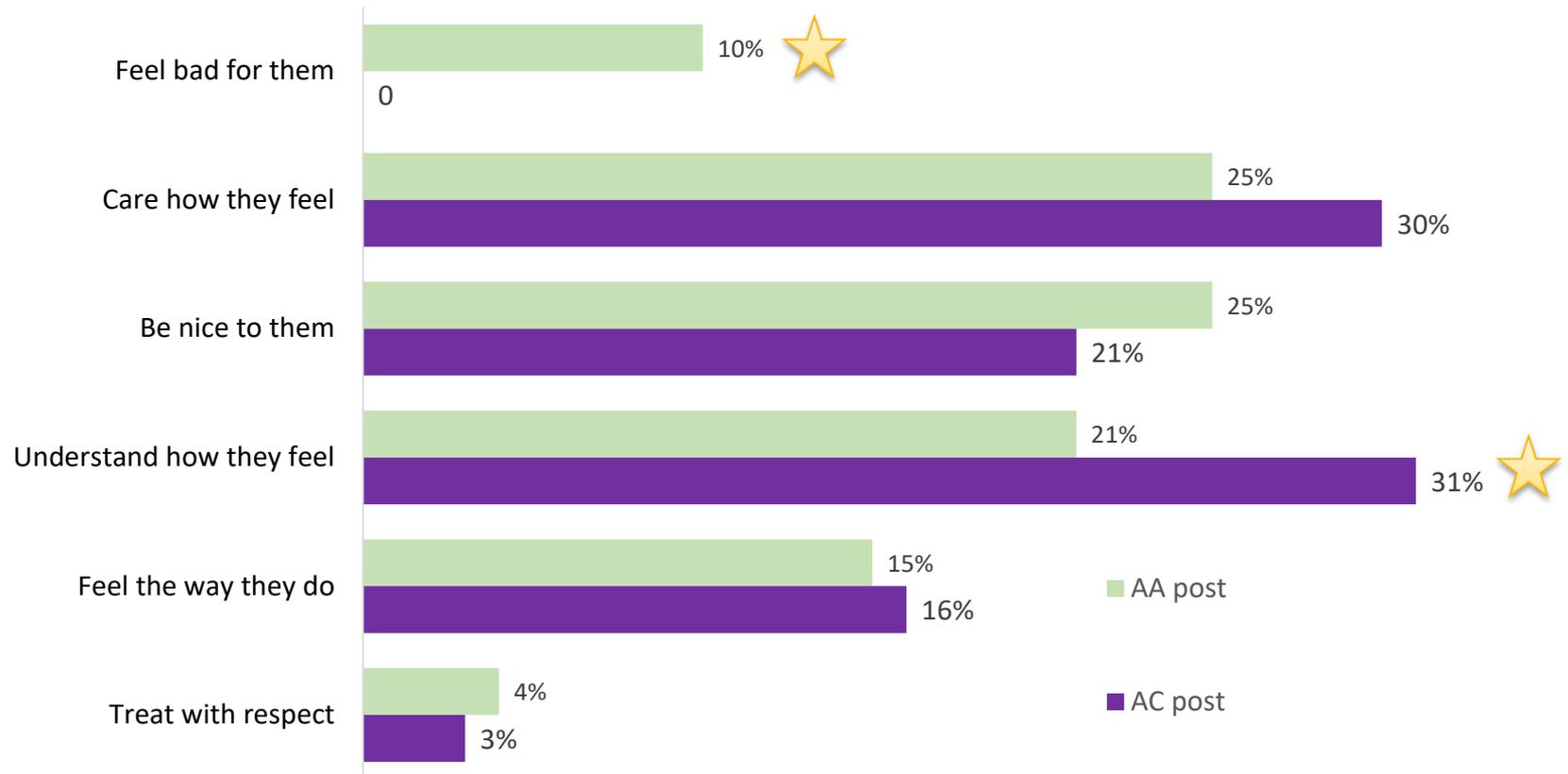
Grade 3 and 4, Post: Animal Connections students were more likely over time to describe empathy as understanding how another feels.

Response categories	AC: 3rd grade post	AC: 4th grade post	Sample quotes
Be nice to them	36% ⭐	21%	It means like say if someone fall and someone help you up that's empathy. It means be friendly to people you know and being nice.
Care how they feel	30%	30%	Empathy means to care about each other. It means to feel them.
Feel the way they do	17%	16%	To be in peoples' shoes. Empathy means to feel the same emotion as someone else.
Understand how they feel	7% ⭐	31%	When you see the person's face …you know if they're mad or not. Look at her face and body for clues.
Feel bad for them	3%	<1%	You feel sad for them. It mean you feel bad for a person when something sad happen to her.
Treat with respect	4%	3%	It means be kind and nice and respectful to one another and even animals.
Other	5%	2%	1-2 students apiece gave other definitions

Grade 3, Post: Students in both programs identified finding food/water and avoiding predators as primary threats their neighborhood animal would face.

Category	AA	AC
Finding food/water	34%	42%
Predators	23%	34%
Finding shelter/home	10%	18%
People harming/destroying habitat	9%	16%
Traffic	7%	12%
Weather	8%	5%
Fighting with other animals	5%	5%
Hunters/poachers	5%	9%
Staying alive (no specifics)	2%	4%
I don't know	23%	0%
Other	2%	3%

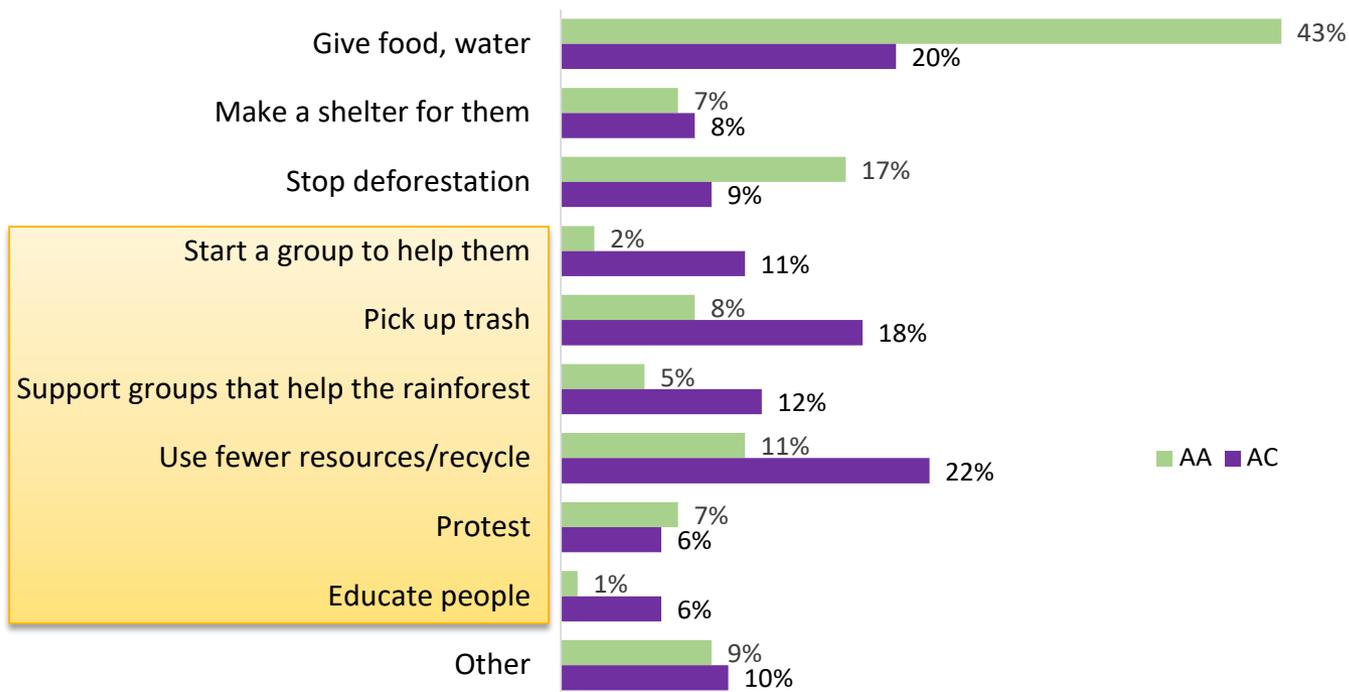# Grade 3, Post: Animal Connections students were more likely to list protecting animals from humans, leaving animals alone, and protecting them from predators as actions they could take to help animals in their neighborhood.

Category	AA	AC
Give them food/water	34%	36%
Protect from predators	4%	14%
Provide shelter/adopt	19%	9%
Protect from people	3%	19%
Don't disturb them	5%	14%
Take care of them (no specifics)	5%	9%
Call someone who can help	4%	4%
I don't know	24%	5%
Other	7%	4%

- AA
- AC

Grade 4, Post: "Can kids your age help animals that live in the rainforest?"

Yes
- AA: 52%
- AC: 72% ⭐

No
- AA: 10%
- AC: 5%

Not sure
- AA: 38%
- AC: 23%

Legend: ■ AA ■ AC
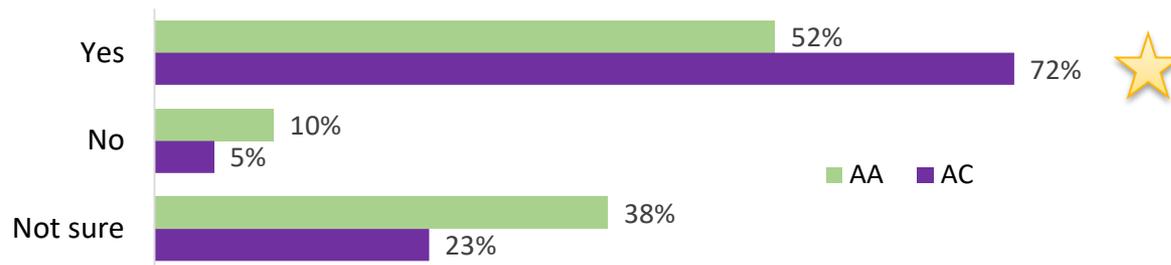
Those who answered "yes": "What are some ways kids your age can help animals that live in the rainforest?"

Give food, water
- AA: 43%
- AC: 20%

Make a shelter for them
- AA: 7%
- AC: 8%

Stop deforestation
- AA: 17%
- AC: 9%

Start a group to help them
- AA: 2%
- AC: 11%

Pick up trash
- AA: 8%
- AC: 18%

Support groups that help the rainforest
- AA: 5%
- AC: 12%

Use fewer resources/recycle
- AA: 11%
- AC: 22%

Protest
- AA: 7%
- AC: 6%

Educate people
- AA: 1%
- AC: 6%

Other
- AA: 9%
- AC: 10%

Legend: ■ AA ■ AC

THE LONG, LONG JOURNEY
THE GODWIT'S AMAZING MIGRATION

SANDRA MARKLE
ILLUSTRATIONS BY MIA POSADA

SHARK LADY
The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist

Written by Jess Keating • Illustrations by Marta Álvarez Miguéns

The Want Monsters
And How They Stopped Ruling My World

Chelo Manchego

Directions: Draw a picture of an experience you have had with an animal. For example: playing fetch with a dog, seeing a fox in the wild, visiting an animal at an animal shelter.

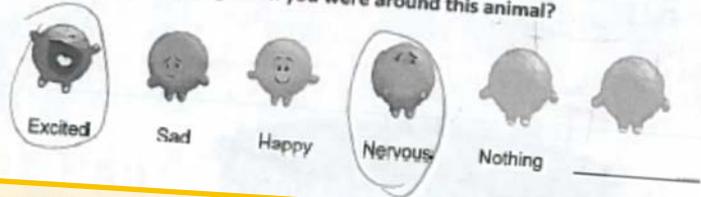Then, **answer the questions on the back** using the picture you drew.
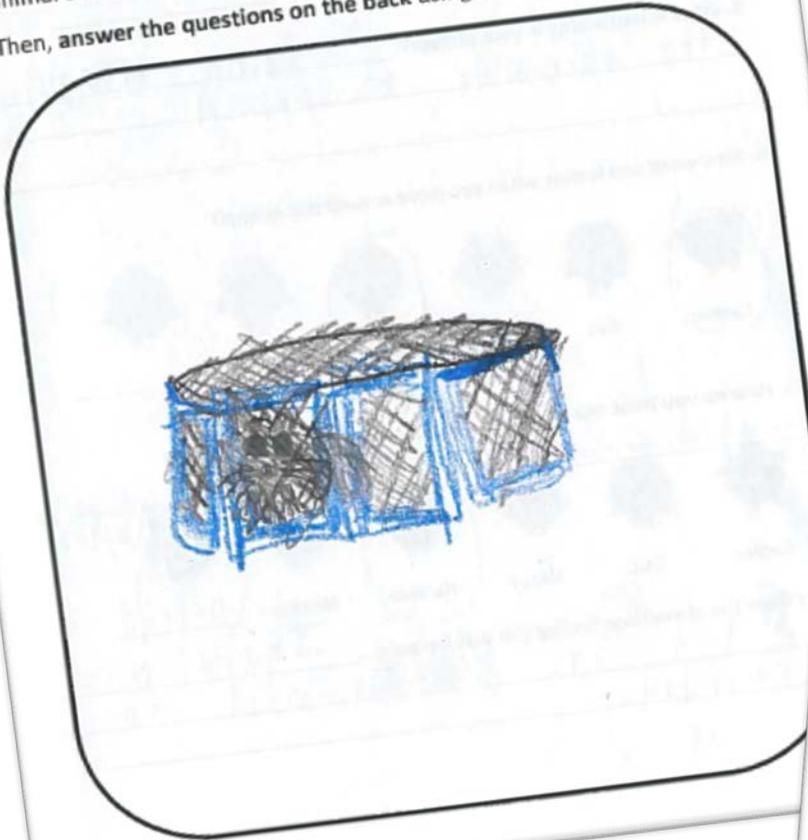
1. What animal is in your picture? ___Chinchilla___

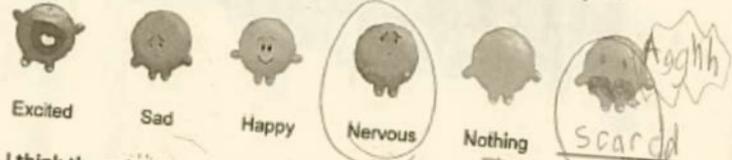2. Who is the animal? (Circle one answer.)

   Your family's animal.   A friend's animal.   (An animal from the Zoo.)

   An animal that lives in the wild.   Other: _____

3. What is happening in your picture? ___Ms. Anna brought the chinchilla to school.___

4. How were you feeling when you were around this animal?

   Excited   Sad   Happy   (Nervous)   Nothing _____

5. How do you think the animal was feeling when it was around you?

   Excited   Sad   Happy   (Nervous)   Nothing   (Scared) *Aaghh*

6. I think the animal was feeling this way because... ___There were a lot of kids around the chinchilla___

Directions: Draw a picture of an experience you have had with an animal. For example: playing fetch with a dog, seeing a fox in the wild, visiting an animal at an animal shelter.

Then, **answer the questions on the back** using the picture you drew.

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the grass

1. What animal is in your picture? _A Dog_

2. Who is the animal? (Circle one answer.)

   (Your family's animal)   A friend's animal.   An animal from the Zoo.

   An animal that lives in the wild.   Other: _no_

3. What is happening in your picture? _I Am tharowing the ball for the Dog_

4. How were you feeling when you were around this animal?

   Excited   Sad   Happy   Nervous   Nothing   _____

5. How do you think the animal was feeling when it was around you?

   Excited   Sad   Happy   Nervous   Nothing   _____

6. I think the animal was feeling this way because... _he was happy. he was tinget waging his tail._

Chinchilla in the City

Directions: Oh no! Chloe, the chinchilla, left the Zoo for the day and is lost in your neighborhood. **Write a story** about Chloe's journey. **In your story, make sure to include:**

- What is one challenge she would face?
- How she would feel while facing that challenge?
- What would she eat or drink?
- Where would she find shelter?

After writing, **draw a picture** to show your story.

1
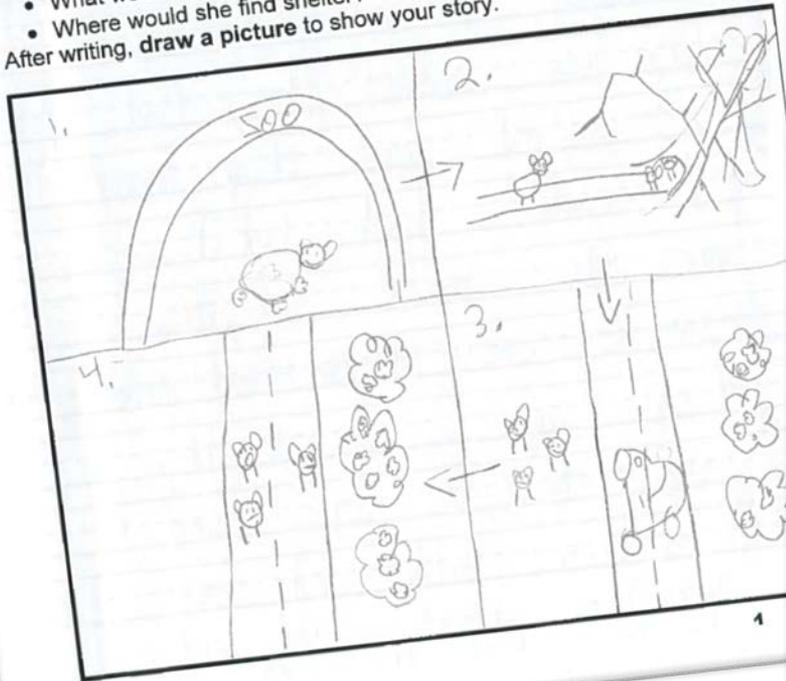
chole left the soo and
is in my neiborghood here is her
story chole needed to
find shelter she found
a tree and she found other
chinchillas there names were
lucy and sophia they had
to find food they found
a rasaberry bush but it was
across the street and they
had to cross it to get food
ther were so sacred they
clossed theryre eyes and
took a deep breath and ran
arcoss the street and got
the the food the end

2

Chloe's Big Adventure

Directions: Pack your bags! Chloe the Chinchilla is going on a trip of a lifetime. She's traveling to the Andes Mountains, the native home for chinchillas. **Write a story** about Chloe's big adventure. **In your story, make sure to include:**

- What will be different for Chloe in the wild?
- Who does she meet?
- What dangers does she encounter?
- Don't forget to describe how she feels throughout her adventure to the Andes Mountains!

After writing, **draw a picture** to show your story.
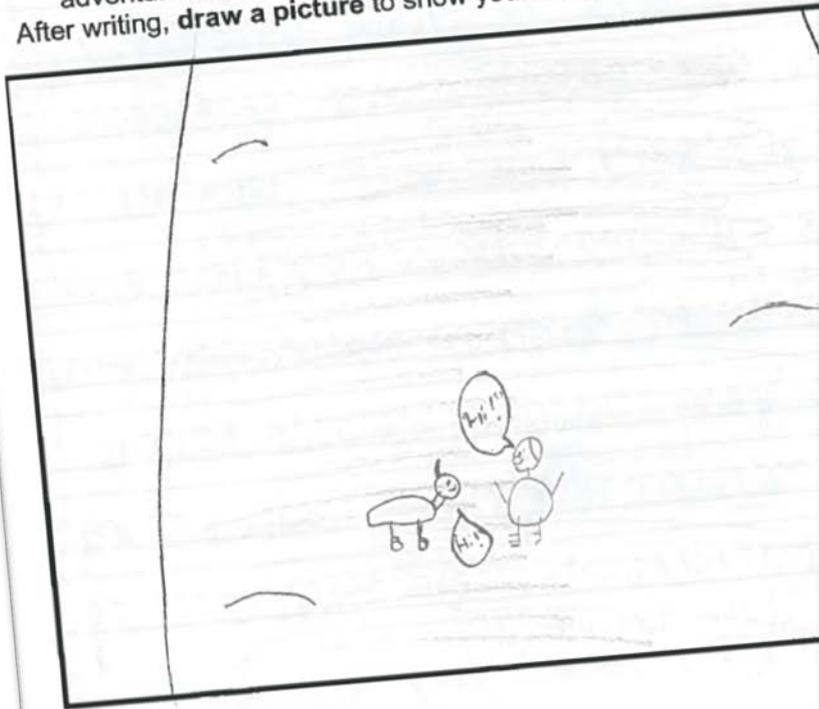
Chloe will be going to the Andes mountins. At the zoo she had rocks to climb on and she also had tress to hang off of. But at the Andes mountins she will have no big rocks or tall tress to hang off of. She starts to climb the mountin, when she bumps into someone. "Oh uh, sorry" said mountin goat. "Its ok." said Chloe "my name is chloe, whats yours? "my name is pete." But my friends call my crams because I'm clumsy." Chloe feels a liffre disapointed that he gets a mean nickname. "Well I'll call you pete." "you wanna ome with me on my adventure?" "I could really use your help finding my way up this mountin." "sure I'll come!" "Great!"