



www.amazes.us/.../10001/normal\_jesse1.jpg

**Overview:**

As folks along the Gulf Coast are recovering from the aftermath of Hurricane Ike, many animals are facing as much bewilderment and peril as their owners. There are animal rescue teams carrying out land and water rescues right now, recovering companions who had to be left behind during the evacuations or animals that were injured in some way. Today's **NewsDepth** story features one such animal, a squirrel named Izzy. Students will use Izzy and survivors like him as writing prompts for classroom activities centering on animals in need.

**Subject matter:** Language arts

**Grade level:** 4- 5

Classroom Activity

1. **Activity# 1** Discussion about animals in need. (5-10 minutes)
  - Have any of you ever found an injured animal or animal that you may have suspected was abandoned? What did you do? Did you ever try to convince your parents that an abandoned or lost animal needed a new home and that home needed to be yours? Tell us about it. Do you know who to contact in your own community to help an injured or abandoned animal? Also discuss safety issues related to picking up or handling an injured or abandoned animal.
  
2. **Activity #2** Write a shape poem about a rescued animal. (30-45 minutes)
  - Materials – Construction paper, scissors, markers and pencils
  - Procedure – Have students choose an animal that they can imagine they have rescued or actually have rescued. Have them cut the paper into the shape of the animal. Choose a simple poem structure (see below) and write either a cinquain, haiku, or diamante about the animal. (This activity helps students assign characteristics to or a description of their animals). Have them paste the story onto the shape.  
[http://www.eduplace.com/activity/animal\\_poems.html](http://www.eduplace.com/activity/animal_poems.html)  
Good source for student writing - simple poems such as cinquains, haikus, diamantes about animals.

3. **Activity #3** Write a story about an animal they have rescued. (1 class period or an assignment for overnight homework).

- Students will choose an animal (you can give them suggestions such as a squirrel, dog, kitten, rabbit, doe, etc).
- Assign them to write a 1-2 page story detailing the rescue of an animal who is a victim of the recent Coastal Hurricane. This story can be written from the view point of the animal or from the rescuers – the students and members of their families
- They are to describe:
  - the circumstance under which the rescue took place (the setting)
  - the rescue details (the plot including the conflict)
  - the animal (the character - give a clear picture of the animal for the reader to visualize) As an option, have them illustrate their story.
  - what you did with the animal after the rescue took place. (the resolution)
- Have them share the stories with their classmates by reading them orally or by posting them in the room.
- You may use any of the additional resources cited below for samples of animal rescue stories.

### **Additional Resources**

<http://www.squirrel-rescue.com/>

Important information about rescues, rehabilitation and care

[http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com/clickToGive/home.faces?siteId=3&ThirdPartyClicks=ARS\\_linktous\\_125\\_01](http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com/clickToGive/home.faces?siteId=3&ThirdPartyClicks=ARS_linktous_125_01)

The animal rescue site

[http://www.celiahammond.org/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE\\_user\\_op=view\\_page&PAGE\\_id=15&MMN\\_position=22:22](http://www.celiahammond.org/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=15&MMN_position=22:22)

Rescued animal stories

<http://www.sunbearsquad.org/stories.shtml>

Animal rescue stories

<http://www.animalrescuetv.com/>

A multimedia site based on the television series “Animal rescue”

[http://www.thehungersite.com/clickToGive/animalstories.faces;jsessionid=FA0849B45D9C4DBFF806DA82C6897CBE.ctgProd03?siteId=3&link=ctg\\_ars\\_animalstories\\_from\\_home\\_sidetabs](http://www.thehungersite.com/clickToGive/animalstories.faces;jsessionid=FA0849B45D9C4DBFF806DA82C6897CBE.ctgProd03?siteId=3&link=ctg_ars_animalstories_from_home_sidetabs)

More animal rescue stories