



ABOUT YOU

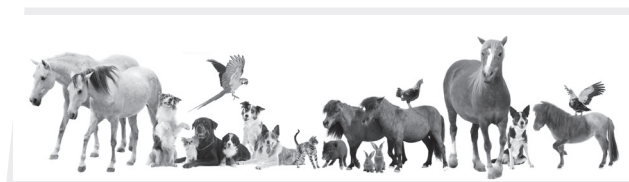
Answer the questions and compare your ideas.

- 1 It is said that 'a dog is a man's best friend.' Do you agree?
- 2 Do you or anyone you know have a pet dog? Can you describe it?
- 3 What do you think about keeping birds in cages? Do you think it is cruel?
- 4 Why might people want to tame wild animals?

Different animals (wild, domestic, tame and dangerous) have inspired poets for thousands of years. The Bengali poet, Rabindranath Tagore, wrote about animals in many of his poems.

- 1 Read the poems. As you read, think about this question. Which poem do you like most? Why? Think about the ideas and the the situation the writer describes.

Two Animal Poems Rabindranath Tagore



1
Every morning this dog, very attached to me,
Quietly keeps sitting near my seat
Till touching its head

5 I recognize its company.
This recognition gives it so much joy
And happiness **ripples** through its entire body.
It is the only animal
That has seen the whole man

10 Beyond what is good or bad in him
It has seen
For his love it can **sacrifice** its life
It can love him too for the sake of love alone
For it is he who shows the way

15 To the vast world full of life.
When I see its deep loyalty
I fail to understand
By its pure instinct
What truth it has discovered in man.

20 By its silent anxious sad looks
It cannot **convey** what it understands
But it has succeeded in showing me
Among the whole creation
What is the true **status** of man.

2
THE tame bird was in a cage, the free bird was in the forest.
They met when the time came, it was **destiny**.
The free bird cries, 'O my love, let us fly to the wood.'

5 The cage bird whispers, 'Come here, let us both live in the cage.'
Says the free bird, 'Among bars, where is there room to
spread my wings?'
'Alas,' cries the caged bird, 'I should not know where to sit
in the sky.'

10 The free bird cries, 'My darling, sing the songs of the woodlands.'
The cage bird sings, 'Sit by my side, I'll teach you the speech
of the **learned**.'
The forest bird cries, 'No, ah no! songs can never be taught.'
The cage bird says, 'Alas for me, I know not the songs of the

15 woodlands.'
Their love is intense with **longing**, but they never can fly
wing to wing.
Through the bars of the cage they look, and wish to know
each other, in **vain**.

GLOSSARY

ripples	to move in small waves, or to make something move in small waves
sacrifice	to give up something that is valuable to you in order to help another person something valuable that you give up in order to achieve something, or the act of giving it up
convey	to communicate information, feelings, or images to someone
status	the position that you have in relation to other people because of your job or social position
destiny	a force that some people believe controls what will happen in the future
learned	someone who is learned has a lot of knowledge from reading and studying
longing	a feeling of wanting something or someone very much
in vain	without any success

2 Read the text again and answer these questions:

1 How are these poems similar, and how are they different? Think about the ideas, the kind of language used, the visual images you get as you read and how the poems make you feel.

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2 Why does the poet admire the dog so much?

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3 Which of the birds do you think is happiest? Why?

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4 Imagine you had to choose a picture to go with each poem, what would you choose? Describe the picture.

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5 Invent a title for each poem.

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VOCABULARY

3 Reorder the jumbled words to make a sentence using the first and last words.

- 1 Richard ... *destiny / was / believed / it / his / be / to* ... King.
- 2 George ... *opportunity / a / sacrificed / job / London / in* ... because his family needed him at home.
- 3 The tiger ... *escape / in / vain / from / tried / to / from* ... the cage.
- 4 Many... *experts / tried / learned / explain / to* ... the death of the dinosaurs.

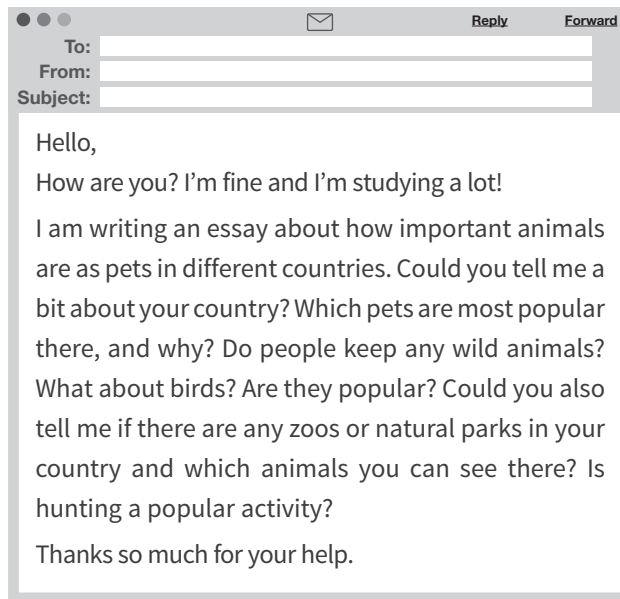
4 Complete sentences 1-5 with a word from the box. Change the form of the word if necessary.

convey	longing	ripples
sacrifice	status	

- 1 The on the river when the wind is blowing are very pretty.
- 2 I miss my dog when I am away – I have a to see him.
- 3 Perhaps some people worry too much about their social
- 4 Janet her ideas very clearly in this essay.
- 4 Many athletes have to spending time with their friends so that they can train.

WRITING

5 An English-speaking friend living in another country has sent you this email. Read the email then write a reply, answering your friend's questions.



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SPEAKING

6 You are going to argue either for or against zoos. Work in a group and think of reasons, arguments and examples. Remember that general points are made stronger when used with specific examples. Think about what the other group is going to say and ways you can respond to their ideas.