**Middle School Reading Article**

***To Rescue or Not, That is the Question with Distressed Animals (1510L)***

**Instructions: COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS AND MARGIN NOTES using the CLOSE reading strategies practiced in class. This requires reading of the article three times.**

**Step 1: Skim** the article using these symbols as you read:

**(+)** agree, **(-)** disagree, **(\*)** important, **(!)** surprising, **(?)** wondering

**Step 2: Number** the paragraphs. **Read** the article **carefully** and **make notes in the margin**.

Notes should include:

* Comments that show that you **understand** the article. (A summary or statement of the main idea of important sections may serve this purpose.)
* Questions you have that show what you are **wondering** about as you read.
* Notes that differentiate between **fact** and **opinion**.
* Observations about how the **writer’s strategies** (organization, word choice, perspective, support) and choices affect the article.

**Step 3:** A **final quick read** noting anything you may have missed during the first two reads.

Your **margin notes** are part of your score for this assessment. Answer the questions carefully in **complete sentences** unless otherwise instructed.

**Student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Class Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

# To Rescue or Not, That is the Question With Distressed Animals

## Maybe it’s a baby robin that falls out of a nest in the backyard, or twin deer fawns left orphaned after their mother gets struck by a car or eaten by wolves, or perchance a bald eagle, behaving strangely, staggering on the ground and unable to fly.

## When wild animals appear to be in distress, should human beings intervene to rescue them or is it better to back off and let nature take its course?

## This existential question is being debated again following an incident in [Yellowstone National Park](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2016/05/) involving a bison.

## Earlier in May, a Canadian tourist captured a wild bison calf with his bare hands and loaded it into his SUV. The man said he found the animal alone and shivering along the roadside in Yellowstone’s wildlife-rich Lamar Valley. Once he turned it over to rangers, park biologists made several attempts to reunite the youngster with its herd but when the calf was rejected, they euthanized it.

## Kassam was fined $110 for violating park regulations, which strictly forbid contact with wildlife, and is supposed to make a court appearance in June. Meanwhile, the incident ignited emotional exchanges on social media ranging from condemnation of the tourist to claims Yellowstone officials responded heartlessly.

## Should the bison have been sent to a rehabilitation facility or turned back in its natural environment where it faced a high probability of falling prey to predators or dying from starvation?

## Yellowstone, which has the most abundant and diverse array of large wild mammals in the Lower 48, has wrestled with the dilemma for decades. Yellowstone tries to keep human interference to a minimum as do most state and federal wildlife agencies across the country.

## “The rule of thumb is that if human activity causes an animal to become injured or orphaned, we may intervene. If not—if it’s something that happened naturally—then we don’t,” says ecologist Doug Smith, who oversees Yellowstone’s wolf and avian management.

## Different states have varying protocols on whether to attempt rehab for injured animals or move immediately to euthanize.

## The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has an official motto for dealing with sick, injured or orphaned animals: If you care, leave it there. “The circle of life can be difficult to observe at times, but no animal goes to waste. Many species of wildlife rely on sick or injured animals to feed themselves and their young.”

***Notes on my thoughts, reactions and questions as I***

***read:***

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***Notes on my thoughts, reactions and questions as I read:***

*This article addresses the following CCSS ELA Standards in addition to those noted.*

*7/8.W.1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10*

*7/8.L.1,2,3,4,5,6,*

*7/8.SL.1,2,3,4,5,6*

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**Comprehension questions – answers may be in phrases.**

1. *Based on the use of the term, list two possible synonyms for the term* **perchance.** *(Note: The synonyms are not found in the text.)*
2. *Consider the phrase: “wrestle with a dilemma.” What does this phrase mean; what figure of speech is it?*
3. *Define* **euthanize** *as used in the article.*
4. *List four animals humans may attempt to rescue that are mentioned in the text.*
5. *Define* **array** *as used in the text.*

*7/8.RI.1,2,3,4,7*

*7/8.RI.1,2,3,4,5*

**Answer each question in one or more complete sentences and by providing complete explanations.**

1. *Explain the phrase “existential question.” Can an existential question be answered?*

1. *Refer to paragraphs two and six. What is the author’s likely purpose in using a question at these points in the text?*

*7/8.RI.2,6,8,9*

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[Rachel Feltman](http://www.washingtonpost.com/people/rachel-feltman) September 18 [Rachel Feltman](http://www.washingtonpost.com/people/rachel-feltman) September 18

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**3.** *Using the chart provided, create a list of at least three potential reasons humans should intervene to save wildlife and three potential reasons humans should let nature take its course. At minimum of three total answers must be cited from the text.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **REASONS TO SAVE DISTRESSED WILDLIFE** | **REASONS HUMANS SHOULD NOT INTERVENE** |
| *1.*  *2.*  *3.* | *1.*  *2.*  *3.* |

*7/8.RI.8,9*

**(**

***4.***  *In an additional portion of the text, the author describes the Montana Raptor Conservation Center, one of the largest licensed animal rehabilitation facilities in Montana. The director of the facility stated, “We approach each case on an individual basis. Our success rate, depending on the year, is between 35 and 40 percent.” According to the website, in 2015, 234 raptors were taken in. Based on this data, about how many raptor rescues were successful that year. Answer in a complete sentence showing your work.*

*7/8.RI.1,4*

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