



# Animal Encounters

*The great hurrah about wild animals is that they exist at all, and the greater hurrah is the actual moment of seeing them.*

— Annie Dillard  
*Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*



# Animal Encounters

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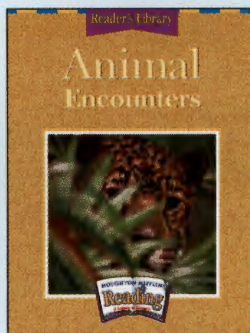
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## Reader's Library

- The Hyrax of Top-Knot Island
- Saving Sea Turtles
- Kat the Curious

## Theme Paperbacks

### **Dolphin Adventure**

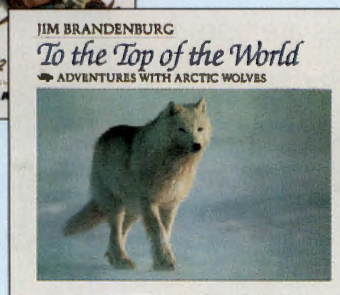
*by Wayne Grover*

### **The Tarantula in My Purse: and 172 Other Wild Pets**

*by Jean Craighead George*

### **To the Top of the World**

*by Jim Brandenburg*



# Book Links

If you like . . .



## The Grizzly Bear Family Book

by Michio Hoshino

If you like . . .



## The Golden Lion Tamarin Comes Home

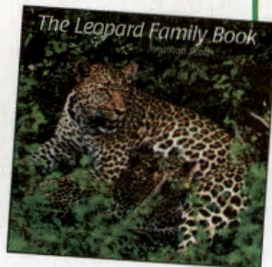
by George Ancona

Then try . . .

## The Leopard Family Book

by Jonathan Scott (North-South)

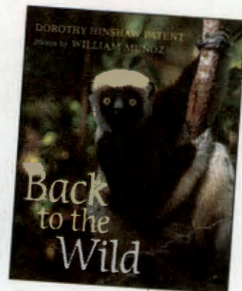
With accompanying photographs, the author explains how the leopard is able to survive in the wild.



## Back to the Wild

by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent (Harcourt)

Many endangered animals are born in captivity, taught survival skills, and released to the wild.

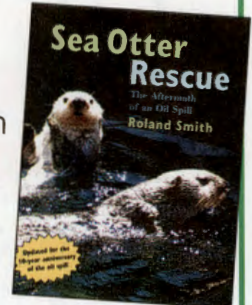


Then try . . .

## Sea Otter Rescue

by Roland Smith (Dutton)

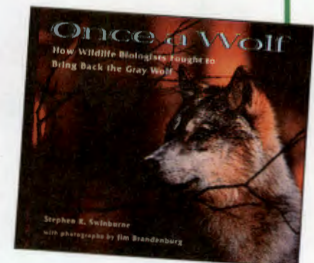
After a disastrous oil spill in Alaska's Prince William Sound, a team of animal rescue experts rushes to the aid of oil-covered sea otters.



## Once a Wolf

by Stephen R. Swinburne (Houghton)

Wildlife biologists work to bring the gray wolf back to Yellowstone National Park.



If you like . . .



**My Side of the Mountain**

by Jean Craighead George

Then try . . .

**Frightful's Mountain**

by Jean Craighead

George (Dutton)

Frightful, Sam

Gribbley's peregrine falcon from *My Side of the Mountain*,

must now try to

survive in the wilderness on her own.



**The House of Wings**

by Betsy Byars (Viking)

Caring for an

injured crane helps

bring a boy and his

grandfather closer.



Technology



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[www.eduplace.com/kids](http://www.eduplace.com/kids)

. . .

**At school**

Read at school and take a quiz.



. . .

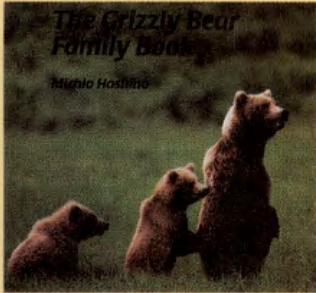
**At home**

Read at home and log on to



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## The Grizzly Bear Family Book



California  
Standards

### Standards to Achieve

#### Reading

- Use roots and affixes (R1.4)
- Discern main ideas (R2.3)
- Inferences/generalizations (R2.4)
- Facts, inferences, opinions (R2.5)

# Wild Alaska

The state of Alaska, the setting of *The Grizzly Bear Family Book*, includes huge areas of **wilderness**. Two great mountain ranges span the state.

The Brooks Range, in the north, lies above the Arctic Circle. The Alaska Range, in the south, arcs up to include Mt. McKinley, also called Denali, the highest mountain in North America, located in Denali National Park. At over 7,300 square miles, the park is larger than Connecticut and Rhode Island combined.

The land in the park is a rich environment of mountains, glaciers, and grassy, treeless Arctic **tundra**, home to **abundant** wildlife. Over thirty species of mammals live there, ranging in size from tiny shrews and voles to the grizzly bears featured in the selection. Other large animals in the park include Dall sheep, moose, and **caribou**, also known as reindeer.

Human beings who visit the wild habitats of Alaska need to remember that they are entering the **territory** of wild animals. The creatures who make their homes there are likely to view humans with **wariness**. In return, the humans should view the wild inhabitants with respect.



Caribou





### Grizzly Bears





# *The Grizzly Bear Family Book*

*Michio Hoshino*



## Strategy Focus

The author of this selection spent a year photographing grizzly bears. As you read, evaluate how his personal involvement enhances the story he tells.



Imagine meeting a grizzly bear in the wild. Not at the zoo, not in a book, but out in the open — a chance encounter with the real thing. Just you and the bear, face to face.

It happened to me once, when I was camping near Mount McKinley in Alaska. For more than half of each year, I hike through the mountains and plains of Alaska, the Great Land, with my tent on my back, taking pictures of the land which has attracted me since my teens.

Around four o'clock one morning I was awakened by something brushing against my tent. Wondering what it was, I rubbed my eyes and opened the tent flap. There, right in front of me, was a bear's face. I was startled, but the bear must have been even more surprised. It took one look at me and clumped hastily away.

I had never before been so close to a bear. And I knew that I wanted to use my camera to record one year in the lives of the Alaskan grizzlies.



In midwinter the temperature here may fall to fifty degrees below zero. During this harsh time, a grizzly bear will sleep in a snug underground den, the entrance covered by a blanket of snow.

While the mother bear sleeps, her tiny cubs are born. They nurse and snuggle next to her until longer days and warmer temperatures signal the arrival of spring.

One day in April, as I hiked through the mountains called the Alaska Range, I noticed fresh bear tracks on the snowy slope. Following them with my binoculars, I spotted a mother bear and her cub walking through the snow.

The cold, biting wind was already giving way to spring breezes. When the bears come out of their dens, it's a sure sign that the long winter is over.

As the snow melts and shrinks into patches of crusty ice, wildflowers push their faces towards the sky. In the far north, the flowers are very small. But each blossom possesses tremendous strength. I am moved when I come upon these tiny shapes, living their lives to the fullest extent.

In early spring, grizzly bears also enjoy life to its fullest. Once I watched as a mother and her cub played tag on a slope across from me. The mother chased her cub across the grassy hillside. When she caught the youngster, she took it in her arms and hugged it to her gently, and they began to roll down the slope together. They seemed to be having such a wonderful time, I couldn't help but burst out laughing.

A nursing bear will often lie on her back and offer milk to her cub. If she has two, she will cradle one in each arm. I'm not sure that nursing tires her out, but afterwards the mother often spread-eagles on the ground, sound asleep.

People have such fearful images of bears. But is the affection and care of a human mother for her children so different from the love and tenderness the mother bear shows her cubs?





Grizzlies just emerging from their winter dens are as thin as they will be all year. They have not eaten for months, and in the snow-covered landscape, their first meal may be the carcass of a moose or caribou that did not survive the winter. Near the sea, bears may find a beached whale, or a dead sea lion or walrus.

After the snow melts and the earth turns green, bears begin to eat roots and grasses. Sedges — grasses that grow in wetlands — are particularly important, because they grow rapidly in the early spring and are rich in protein.

Arctic ground squirrels are a popular food for bears, but it takes real work to catch one. An 850-pound bear chasing a 2-pound squirrel is a truly comical sight. When the squirrel dives into its hole, the bear begins digging furiously with its front paws. But there may be many holes, all connected underground. Sometimes the squirrel will pop out of a hole behind the bear and watch it dig away.



Of course, many squirrels do get caught and eaten by bears. Scientists at Denali National Park in Alaska found that each grizzly bear eats about 400 ground squirrels a year.

Caribou, wolves, Dall sheep, moose, and many other animals give birth in the spring. They must keep constant watch over their newborns to protect them from danger.

One June afternoon I was sitting on a mountain slope looking down at a moose with her two young calves. For some reason the moose was uneasy, her ears pulled far back to the sides. A bear suddenly appeared from the bushes and rushed towards the calves.

The moose turned to confront the powerful bear. The bear stopped and the two faced off, staring at each other intently. A moment later the moose charged. The startled bear took off, with the moose close behind.

The moose had risked her life to protect her calves. And the bear retreated rather than risk being injured by the slashing hooves of the determined cow.

The bear will try again, of course, and next time it may be successful. But I have come to understand that when a bear catches a moose calf, it is not a sad event. The bear may have cubs of her own who will share in the meal. There will be new moose calves and new bear cubs next year, and life in the wilderness will go on. In nature, all living things, including humans, depend on other lives for their existence.

As summer nears, the daylight hours lengthen quickly until the nights are completely gone.

Imagine having no night at all. The sun moves around the sky in a big circle, always staying just above the horizon. Without a watch, it's hard to know when one day ends and the next begins. You may forget what day of the week it is, and even what month. And all the while, the sun's energy feeds the trees, grasses, and shrubs of the Alaskan wilderness.

In June salmon swim upstream in Alaska's rivers and streams, and bears are drawn to choice fishing spots. Grizzlies avoid contact with other bears during most of the year, but fishing season brings them shoulder to shoulder along the streams. With food temporarily abundant, they seem to tolerate one another more, but first a dominance order — an understanding of who bosses whom — must be established.

The stronger, more aggressive bears, usually males, command the best places. When a new bear joins a group, a brief struggle for dominance is often the result. Bears avoid fighting if at all possible, but two bears of nearly equal strength may wage a fierce battle. When two bears who have already fought meet again, the loser will automatically give up its place to the victor, avoiding another fight.





Bears use body language to express dominance or subservience within the temporary community at the river. By observing bears as they fish, I have learned some useful clues about the safest way to behave around bears in the wild.

One time I watched a mother bear with one cub, and another mother with two cubs, approach a river. While the mothers fished for salmon in the river, the cubs waited on the riverbank. Curiosity drew all three cubs together. Suddenly the mother of the two cubs rushed up the bank. Would she kill the stranger? But the mother bear simply sniffed the cub that was not her own. Then the mother of the single cub realized what was happening, and charged out of the water to defend her young. Again it seemed as if there might be trouble. The cubs looked on nervously, staying near their mothers. In the end, the two families parted peacefully. Mother bears are usually quite tolerant of the cubs of others, even to the point of adopting strays and orphans.





I was surprised the first time I saw a bear catch a salmon, hold it briefly as if examining it, and then release it in the river. When salmon are rare, grizzlies will hungrily devour every one they catch. But at the height of the salmon season, a bear may capture ten salmon an hour and can afford to be selective. Sometimes bears just eat the head and eggs, discarding the rest. The uneaten portion of the fish doesn't go to waste, however, because gulls swarm nearby, ready to grab the leftovers.

When a bear catches a salmon with its paws and mouth, it can probably smell the difference between a male fish and a female fish. The bear I saw catching and releasing salmon may have been selecting only the female fish with their delicious eggs.

First-year cubs wait on the riverbank for their mothers to bring freshly caught salmon. By their second year, cubs wade in to fish for themselves. Although rarely successful at first, they learn by watching and imitating their mothers.

With the end of the salmon run, the bears' temporary society breaks up, each bear returning to its own mountain territory, where autumn food sources are now maturing.

The bugling of sandhill cranes sweeping south in great ragged Vs announces autumn across Alaska. The animals of the Arctic grow lovely, thick winter coats. Moose and caribou antlers are now very large. Aspen and birch forests turn golden, and the tundra blazes red.

Blueberry, cranberry, and crowberry bushes blanket the ground, offering a rich harvest for bears.



“Don’t bump heads with a bear when you go blueberry picking!” This frequently heard advice is no joke in Alaska. Both humans and bears become so engrossed in berry picking that they scarcely take a moment to lift their heads and look around. While you probably won’t actually bump heads with a bear, it’s wise to check your surroundings now and then.

Bears seem to like soapberries best of all. Wondering how they taste, I picked a ripe red one and popped it in my mouth. It didn’t taste very good to me, but then I don’t like fish heads, either.

It’s wonderful to observe a huge bear holding a thin soapberry branch, gently stripping it of the delicate fruit.

As the days shorten, bears must put on a large store of fat to take them through winter. Berries are high in sugar, and the autumn feast can be critical to a bear’s survival. With their shiny coats rippling as they move across the tundra, grizzlies consume an enormous amount of berries.

How many berries would you guess a grizzly can eat in one day? The bears in Denali National Park eat berries for twenty hours a day in late summer, hardly stopping to sleep. One bear may consume 200,000 berries in a single day! Bear droppings at this time of year consist mainly of partially digested berries. From the seeds in these droppings new bushes will grow to feed a new generation of bears.

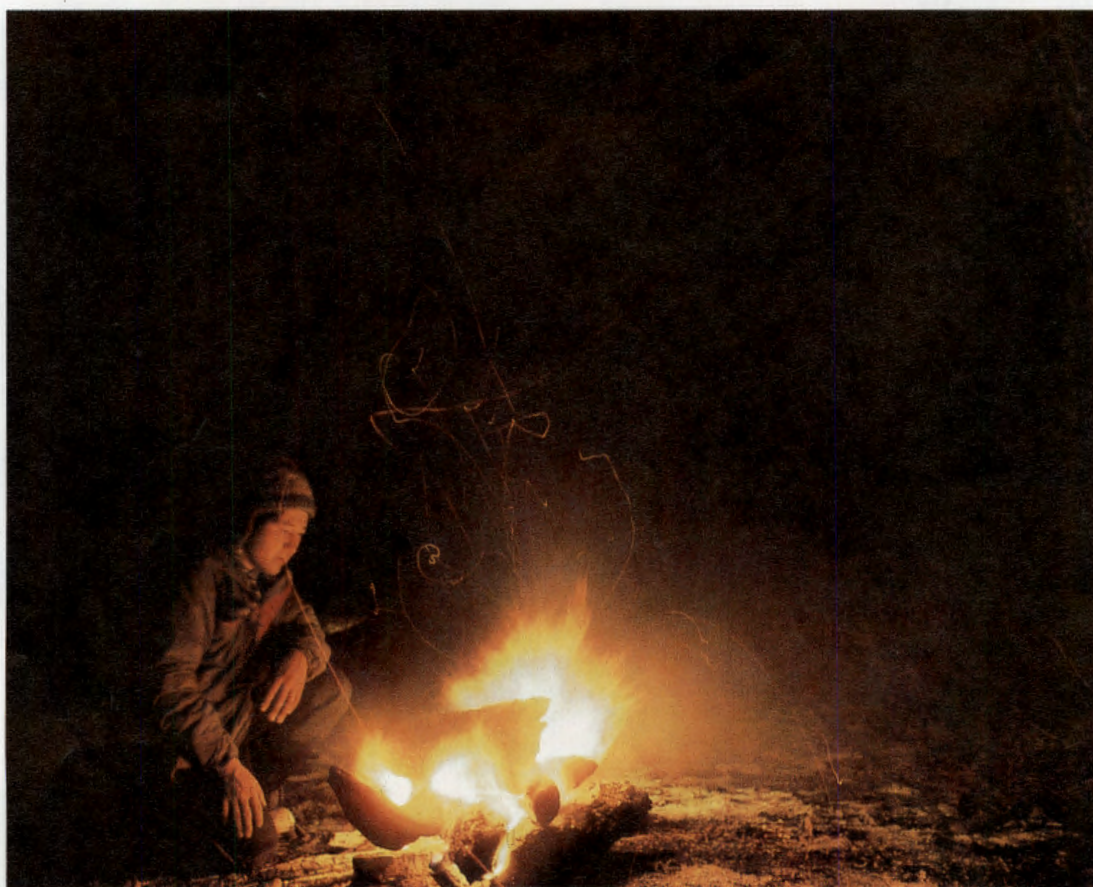




One autumn day as I was hiking through the Brooks Range near the Arctic Circle, I suddenly noticed two bears running towards me from a riverbank. Were they coming at me on purpose, or did they not realize I was there? They appeared to be siblings, just old enough to leave their mother's care, but already powerful. Closer and closer they came, loping gracefully. My heart beat like a drum. When they were about twenty yards away, I raised my arms and shouted, "Stop!"

The two bears skidded to a halt as if in complete surprise. They stood up on their hind legs, wagging their heads from side to side, sniffing the air. I was so excited, I thought my heart would burst.

Then, as if they had finally become aware of my existence, they turned and raced off in the direction they'd come from. It had been a pretty frightening experience for me, but it must have been equally startling for the bears.



That night I couldn't fall asleep. The two grizzlies might be close by. Very few bears are interested in pursuing people, but still I felt somewhat uneasy. Unable to sleep, I thought about bears, about people, and about Alaska.

If there wasn't a single bear in all of Alaska, I could hike through the mountains with complete peace of mind. I could camp without worry. But what a dull place Alaska would be!

Here people share the land with bears. There is a certain wariness between people and bears. And that wariness forces upon us a valuable sense of humility.

People continue to tame and subjugate nature. But when we visit the few remaining scraps of wilderness where bears roam free, we can still feel an instinctive fear. How precious that feeling is. And how precious these places, and these bears, are.

Trophy hunters from the lower United States and from Europe come to Alaska to shoot grizzlies. They smile for the camera and stand, gun in hand, over the body of a dead bear. They hang their trophy on the wall — the head of a bear with its fangs bared, as if it was killed while attacking the heroic hunter. In truth, a high-powered rifle was fired from a great distance at a bear that was peacefully eating berries.

Just imagine: You're alone and unarmed on the Arctic plain with a bear. You and the bear feel the same breeze pass over your faces. You — a human being — are on an equal footing with the bear.

How wonderful that would be. No matter how many books you read, no matter how much television you watch, there is no substitute for experiencing nature firsthand. If you cannot meet a bear in the wild, then you must try to imagine it — for even if you only imagine it, the feeling can be real. And it is the feeling that is important.



Today's snowfall marks the advent of winter. The daylight hours are shorter now. The aurora dances in the clear night sky. A mother bear and her half-grown cubs trace footprints in the new snow as they climb up the mountain to their den. The cubs will spend the long winter with their mother snug beneath the snow.

The snow continues to fall, and finally the tracks are gone. Alaska, the Great Land, settles down for a quiet winter sleep.





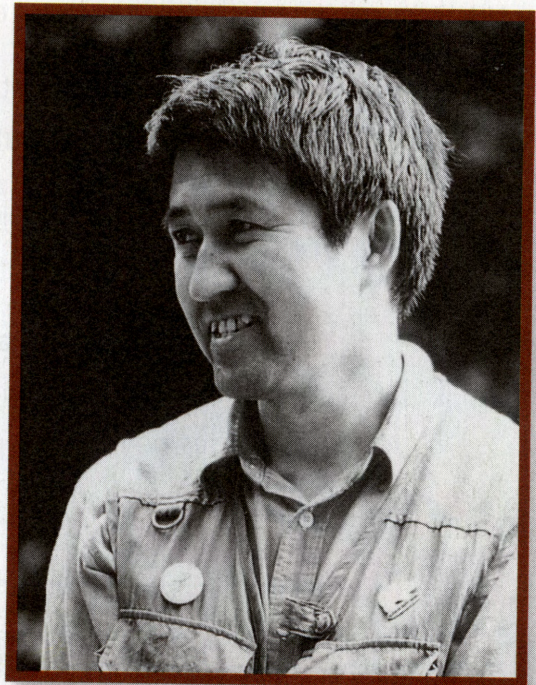
## Meet the Author/Photographer

# Michio Hoshino

Michio Hoshino grew up in Tokyo, Japan. When he was a young man he saw a picture of a remote Inuit village in a book. He sent a letter to the village's mayor, who invited him to Alaska to spend the summer living with a family in the village. He accepted.

Hoshino was fascinated by the Alaskan wilderness, and his photographs of the state's wildlife were published in many books, and in magazines including *National Geographic* and *Smithsonian*. In addition, Hoshino wrote several books, including *Grizzly*, an award-winning book of bear photography.

After a career of almost twenty years as a wildlife photographer, Hoshino's life was cut short. In the early morning of August 8th, 1996, he was pulled from his tent and killed by a brown bear at a camp in a wildlife refuge in Siberia. Witnesses said the bear had begun behaving aggressively towards human beings as a result of being given food by visitors to the refuge.

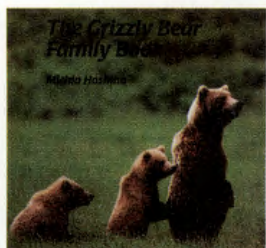


Internet



Learn more about Michio Hoshino by visiting  
Education Place. [www.eduplace.com/kids](http://www.eduplace.com/kids)





## Think About the Selection

1. A surprise encounter caused the author to want to learn more about grizzlies. Would you have had the same reaction? Explain.
2. Why do you think the author compares bear mothers to human mothers on page 605?
3. Why do you think the author includes so much information about the grizzly bears' habitat?
4. The author writes on page 607: "... when a bear catches a moose calf, it is not a sad event." Do you agree? Why or why not?
5. Based on the selection, what generalizations can you make about bears? Think about their family life, growth, and feeding habits.
6. Has reading this selection changed your feelings about bears? Why or why not?
7. **Connecting/Comparing** Compare the relationship of Michio Hoshino and the bears he photographs with that of Bob Lemmons and the horses he rounds up in *Black Cowboy, Wild Horses*.

### Describing

## Write About Bears

Choose two photographs of grizzly bears from the selection. Write a paragraph about each photograph.

Describe the setting and season,

how fully grown the bears are, and what the bears are doing.

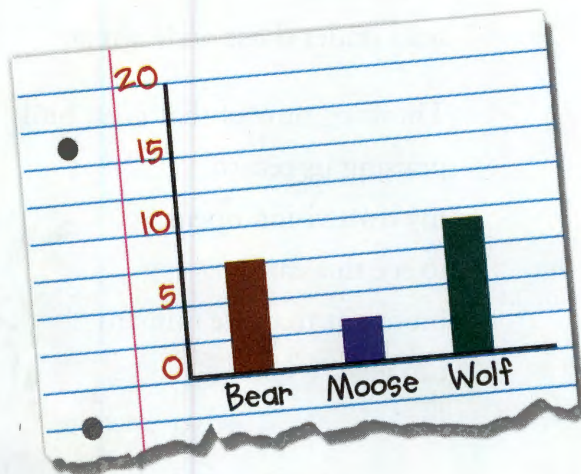
### Tips

- Include a topic sentence in each paragraph.
- Make each paragraph more interesting by using different sentence types and lengths.

## Math

### Make a Graph

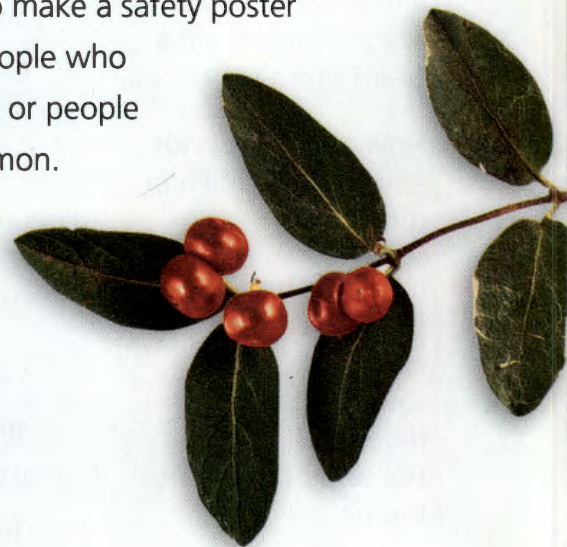
Make a list of all the animals mentioned in the selection. Then take a poll of your class or school. Find out how many people have seen each kind of animal the author mentions. Create a graph that shows the results.



## Health and Safety

### Make a Safety Poster

Humans in bear territory need to be educated about grizzlies, for both their own and the bears' protection. Use information from the selection about bear behavior to make a safety poster especially for people who pick wild berries or people who fish for salmon.



## Internet

### Go on a Web Field Trip

Connect to Education Place and explore a part of the world where grizzlies roam.

[www.eduplace.com/kids](http://www.eduplace.com/kids)

## Poetry Link

### Skill: How to Compare Poems

When you read two or more poems together, ask these questions:

- What is the **subject** of each poem? How are the subjects or images alike or different?
- What is the **mood** of each poem? Light and funny? Dark and serious? How are the moods alike or different?
- How are the **sounds** and **rhythms** alike or different?
- If the poems are by the same poet, what **elements** (subject, sound, images, mood) tell you that the same poet wrote them?

California  
Standards

### Standards to Achieve

Reading

- Describe literary devices (R3.5)

620

# Three Poems by Joseph Bruchac

## Above Jackson Pond

Long-winged, it circled  
slow as a heron  
yet shoulders broader in flight.

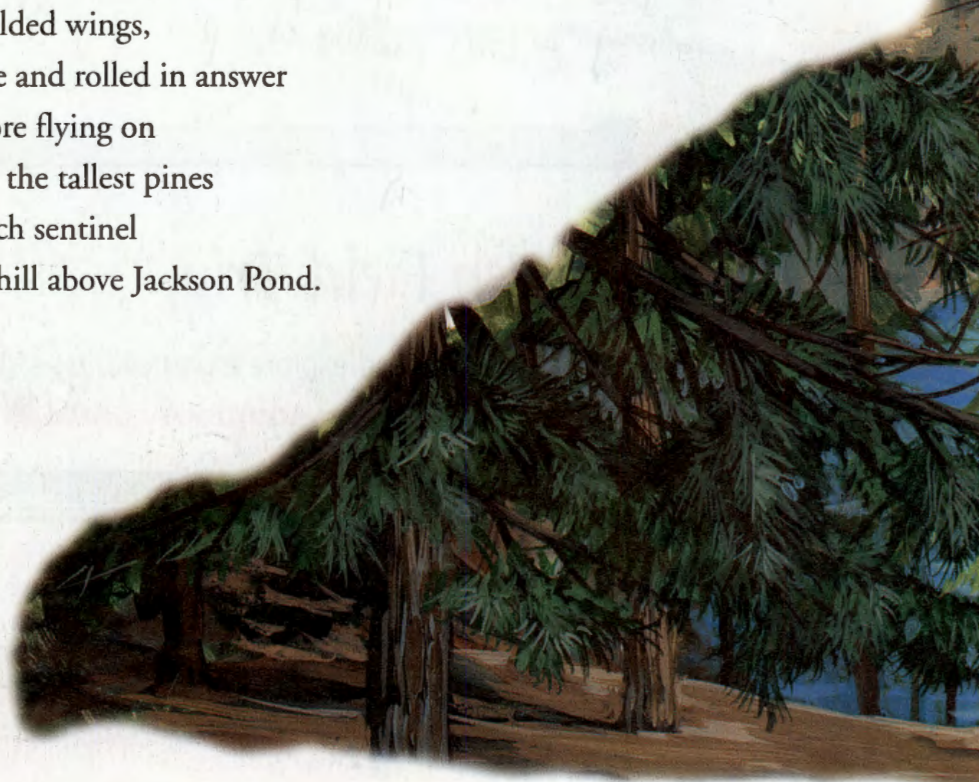
Seeking an updraft  
to lift it higher,  
it flapped wings  
darker than clouds,  
tail fanned, catching light.

An Eagle.

I whistled its way  
and on my third whistle  
it folded wings,  
dove and rolled in answer  
before flying on  
past the tallest pines  
which sentinel  
the hill above Jackson Pond.

Valleys widen with green,  
with the flow of spring,  
rivers and lakes  
veins pulsing the heart  
of the land  
held under those wide wings.

Thinking now of that great bird  
praising its return,  
my own vision opens  
to see this earth  
more gift than we humans  
can give.





## Raccoons on the Shore at Paradox Lake

From the lake shore  
greyed in by trails of mist  
from the warm evening water  
bright eyes flash at me  
in the beam of the lantern  
as I lift my paddle  
and let the boat drift.

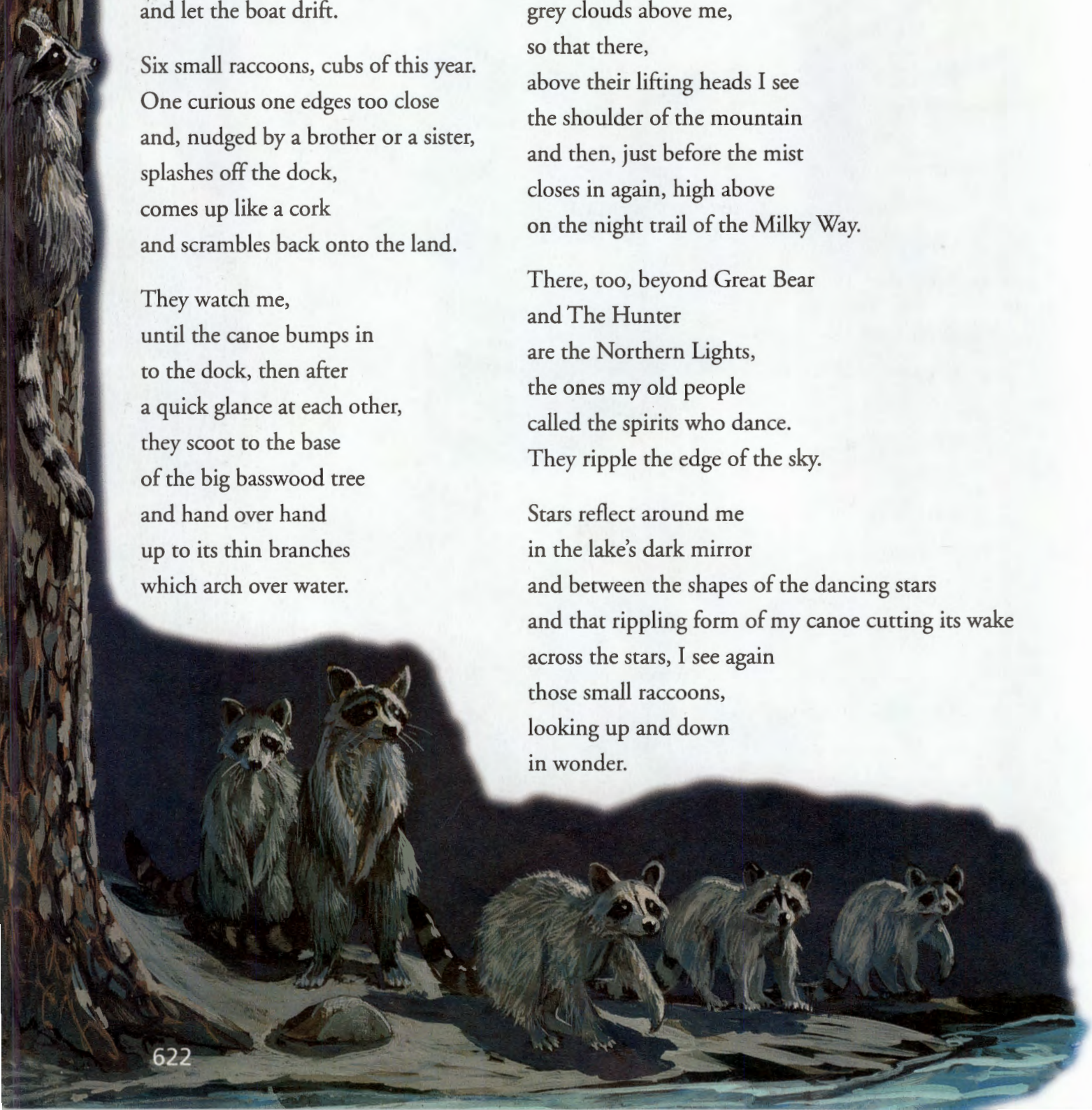
Six small raccoons, cubs of this year.  
One curious one edges too close  
and, nudged by a brother or a sister,  
splashes off the dock,  
comes up like a cork  
and scrambles back onto the land.

They watch me,  
until the canoe bumps in  
to the dock, then after  
a quick glance at each other,  
they scoot to the base  
of the big basswood tree  
and hand over hand  
up to its thin branches  
which arch over water.

Their small paws  
break free twigs  
which rain about me  
as a sudden wind  
cuts across the lake,  
cutting through the low  
grey clouds above me,  
so that there,  
above their lifting heads I see  
the shoulder of the mountain  
and then, just before the mist  
closes in again, high above  
on the night trail of the Milky Way.

There, too, beyond Great Bear  
and The Hunter  
are the Northern Lights,  
the ones my old people  
called the spirits who dance.  
They ripple the edge of the sky.

Stars reflect around me  
in the lake's dark mirror  
and between the shapes of the dancing stars  
and that rippling form of my canoe cutting its wake  
across the stars, I see again  
those small raccoons,  
looking up and down  
in wonder.



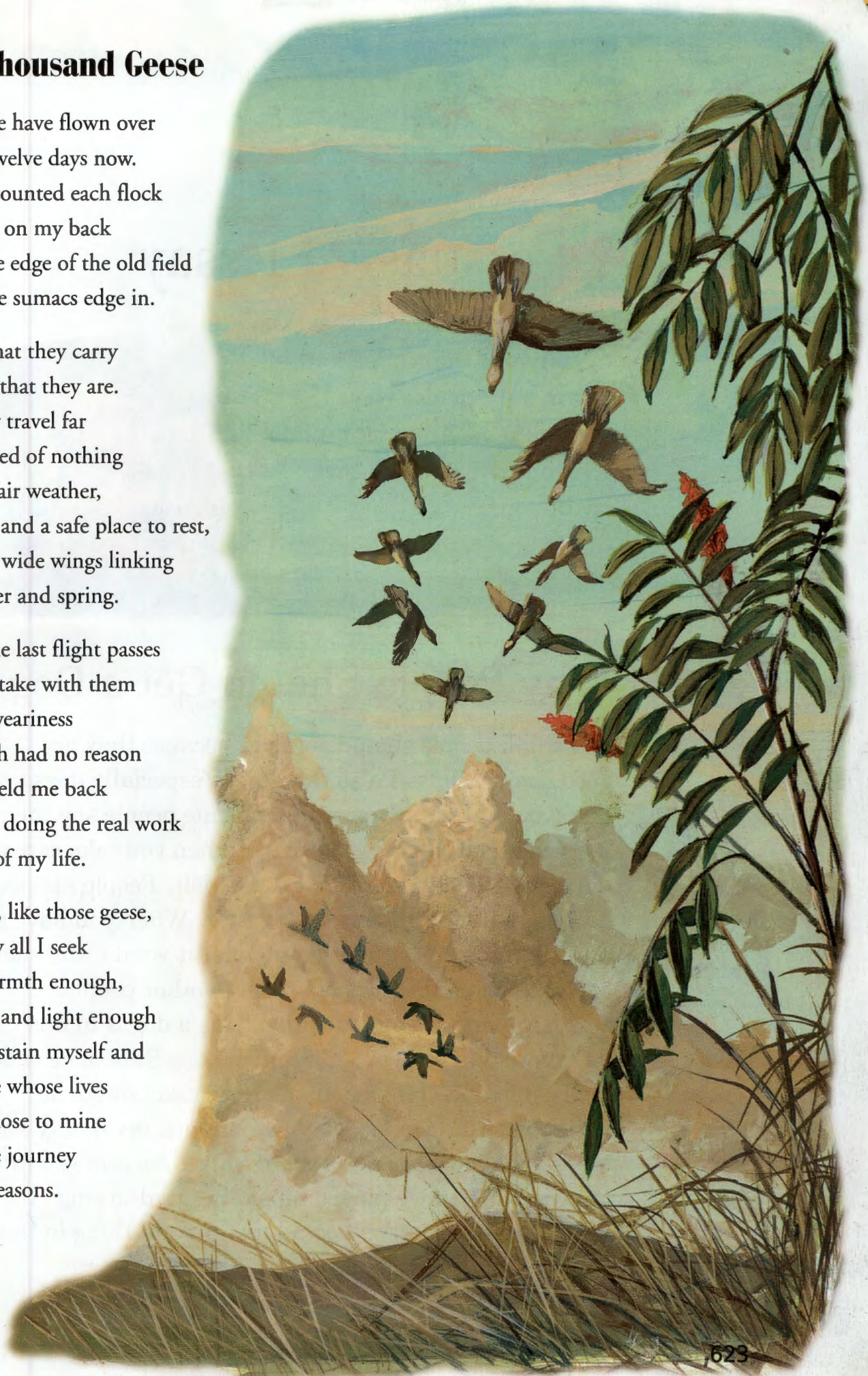
## A Thousand Geese

Geese have flown over  
for twelve days now.  
I've counted each flock  
lying on my back  
at the edge of the old field  
where sumacs edge in.

All that they carry  
is all that they are.  
They travel far  
in need of nothing  
but fair weather,  
food and a safe place to rest,  
their wide wings linking  
winter and spring.

As the last flight passes  
they take with them  
my weariness  
which had no reason  
yet held me back  
from doing the real work  
half of my life.

Now, like those geese,  
today all I seek  
is warmth enough,  
food and light enough  
to sustain myself and  
those whose lives  
are close to mine  
as we journey  
the seasons.



## Student Writing Model

# A Persuasive Essay

The purpose of a persuasive essay is to convince the reader to think or act in a particular way. Use this student's writing as a model when you write a persuasive essay of your own.




## Why People Should Get a Dog

I think people should get dogs because they are good companions. I also think pets, especially dogs, help you and improve your life. Some people say their dogs changed their lives because when you take care of a dog you need to learn to be unselfish. People also say dogs help them communicate better. When you have a dog, you have to try to find out what it wants, and that can help you find out how to talk to other people.

An important thing about getting a dog is to find one that suits you. When I had my dog Simba, he was my best friend. He was my favorite mammal to be with besides my mom. He always made my family and me laugh. Sometimes he got all mixed up and ran into the wall. When we played music, he tried to sing. I loved him very much. I could tell him anything in the world as if he was my best friend.

A good persuasive essay usually states the **goal** in the **introduction**.

The persuasive goal should be supported by **strong reasons**.



Dogs help you because your personality is one of the many important parts of your life, and dogs help improve it. My dog helped me improve my personality by making me be more open because it wasn't always about me. He also improved my knowledge because I did not know dogs needed so many things to be satisfied. I had to learn how to react to him and find out when to feed him and what he liked to eat.

It's important to state **facts** and give **examples**.

Some people say that dogs need too much care. You have to feed them and take them for walks. My dog Simba was worth any work I had to do because he was my friend.

A good persuasive essay **answers objections**.

I think everyone should have a dog because they may improve your life. Simba and every other pet I had taught me a valuable lesson I will need to know later in life. By getting a dog, you too can learn a valuable lesson or two.

The **conclusion** should bring the essay to a satisfactory close.

## Meet the Author



**Michiala L.**

**Grade:** five

**State:** Massachusetts

**Hobbies:** playing softball, making friendship bracelets, listening to music, and riding her bike

**What she wants to be when she grows up:** a veterinarian