Preview “Alpha Dog”

Read the middle paragraph on page 24. What are two words you would use to describe Millan’s attitude?

1. __________________________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________________________

Look at the photo on page 36. What are two things you notice about Millan here?

1. __________________________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________________________

Preview “Breaking Through”

Look at the photo on page 64 and read the caption. What does it tell you about autism and about how Grandin treated cattle?

_______________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________

Look at the photo on page 89. Write a title for the image.

_______________________________________________________________________________

After you finish the book, discuss and debate the questions below with your Book Group or your class.

1. The Human Animal How are humans different from other animals? What traits are unique to human beings—and separate us from the rest of the animal world?

2. Dog Bites Man Cesar Millan tries to retrain aggressive dogs. But if a dog injures a person, what do you think should be done?

3. Help or Hindrance? Would you call Temple Grandin’s autism a disability? Why or why not?

4. Freedom to Bark? Should animals have rights that are written into law and can be defended in court? If so, what would an animal “Bill of Rights” contain?

5. Photo Album Look at the photos on pages 10, 34, and 39. What do these photos say about Millan’s relationship to animals?
Read Animal Instincts

“Alpha Dog”

Cesar Millan objects to the way that many Americans treat their dogs. List two ways that he thinks dog owners can do better.

**Millan’s Character Traits**

Fill in this web to get a clearer picture of Millan’s life.

1. ______________
2. ______________
3. ______________

**Important People in His Life**

1. ______________
2. ______________
3. ______________

**Challenges He Faced**

1. ______________
2. ______________
3. ______________

**His Accomplishments**

1. ______________
2. ______________
3. ______________

**Dig Deep**

Cesar Millan believes dogs are pack animals that thrive on discipline. Others think that Millan’s tactics are harsh and inhumane. Do you agree with Millan’s dog-training methods or with his critics? Why?
**“Breaking Through”**

**Zoom In**
List two observations that Temple Grandin has made about animals, and explain how those insights have helped her in her work.

**Target Word Webs** encourage students to acquire vocabulary related to the theme of each profile while creating associations to help them retain their knowledge.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temple sees that cows are calmed by the squeeze chute</td>
<td>Temple’s observations help her to analyze animal behavior and develop innovative solutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temple witnesses how badly run slaughterhouses are, and it upsets her.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dig Deep**
The title of this profile is “Breaking Through.” Think of two barriers that Grandin confronted, and explain how she broke through them.

1. ______________________________________
2. ______________________________________

**TARGET WORD WEBS**

- **abstract** page 66
  People with autism may have trouble understanding abstract concepts like love.
  *Abstract* means based on ideas.
  Think of three words or phrases that relate to abstract.

- **unconventional** page 90
  Grandin’s unconventional view of the world gave her a unique perspective.
  *Unconventional* means not usually done or believed.
  Think of three words or phrases that relate to unconventional.
Animal Instincts

Comprehension Check

Fill in the circle to the left of the best answer:

1. Which of the following did NOT contribute to Cesar Millan’s success?
   (a) support from celebrities like Jada Pinkett Smith
   (b) experiences with dogs on his grandfather’s farm
   (c) not speaking English when he arrived in the U.S.
   (d) money from his parents to cross the border
   (e) none of the above

2. Millan has described the beginning of his career like this: “My goods were good, but my delivery wasn’t.” What does he mean?
   (a) He made people think he was a good dog trainer even though he wasn’t.
   (b) He trained dogs well, but he couldn’t communicate in English with their owners.
   (c) He charged too much for his services.
   (d) He couldn’t find work even though he spoke perfect English.

3. If a dog is pampered, it is more likely to _________.
   (a) become underweight
   (b) become spoiled
   (c) act submissive
   (d) need to be rehabilitated

4. Which of the following best describes what “Alpha Dog” is about?
   (a) how a man started with nothing and turned his love of dogs into an extremely successful career
   (b) how dog trainers become famous
   (c) how dogs in the United States act out because they don’t get enough discipline from their owners
   (d) how a man was able to cross the border successfully and survive on the streets of San Diego
   (e) none of the above

5. Which of the following is an insight that Temple Grandin has had during her career?
   (a) Animals are visual thinkers.
   (b) Squeeze chutes are made of metal or wood.
   (c) Cattle become stressed over noise.
   (d) Noise distracts the workers.
   (e) Human beings should not eat beef.

6. Why did Grandin try to limit the amount of noise in slaughterhouses?
   (a) Loud noises cause cattle to panic.
   (b) Noise distracts the workers.
   (c) She couldn’t communicate with cows over the noise.
   (d) She couldn’t communicate with the workers over the noise.
   (e) It is not possible to make a slaughterhouse more humane.

7. “Breaking Through” is mainly about _____________.
   (a) the way animals think
   (b) how people with autism can overcome their limitations
   (c) the inhumane treatment of animals in slaughterhouses
   (d) how one woman used a special understanding of animals to change the way we treat cows

9. Write two statements that Temple Grandin and Cesar Millan would probably agree with.

   ____________________________
   ____________________________

10. According to Millan, how can dog owners benefit from understanding their pets?

   ____________________________