

Warming Up!

1. Get into pairs and attempt the following :

“The more I learn about people, the more I like my dog.”- Mark Twain.

- Discuss with your partner what Mark Twain means from the above quote.

Write in your own words.

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. Put the following attributes/ abilities given below in the proper circles.

(a) self-control

(b) communicates

(c) love and care

(d) cooks

(e) good manners

(f) has 360° vision

(g) shows gratitude

(h) lives for more than 150 years

(i) swims

(j) learns computing

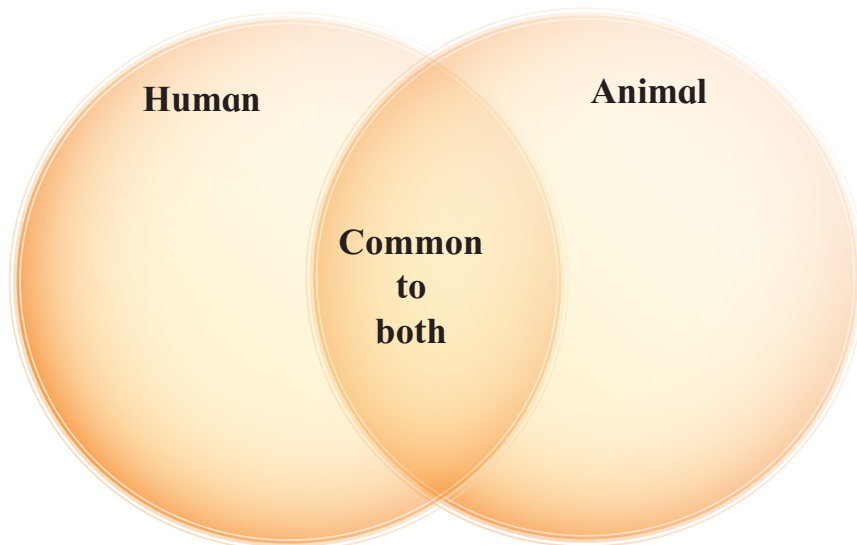
(k) worships god

(l) sleeps in standing position

(m) stands up immediately after birth

(n) brings up children

(o) belongs to various species



3. At times, especially when you are frustrated, you wish you were an animal/ a bird/ a fish/ a butterfly and not a human being.

Say which of the above you would choose to transform to and give 3 or 4 reasons for your choice.

I wish I could be a

.....

.....

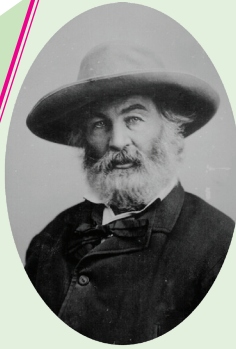
.....

4. We come across many animals in our vicinity. We have also read about different animals in books. Make a list of all animals that fall under various categories. One is given for you.

Amphibians	Mammals	Wild Animals	Acquatic Animals	Pet Animals
frog	cow	lion	octopus	cat

Encourage students to read/use reference material to complete the activity.





Walt Whitman (1819-1892) : A major figure in early American poetry. In an age when all poetry was rhymed and metrical, Whitman made a break with tradition and wrote a revolutionary new kind of poetry in free verse. He was a nonconformist in all respects, including his social life.

The poet tells us that he feels more at home with animals than humans, whom he finds complicated and false.

- **turn** : (here,) transform
- **placid** : not easily upset
- **self-contain'd** : self-sufficient
- **make me sick** : disgust me
- **demented** : mad
- **mania** : craze
- **respectable** : (here,) too happy and satisfied
- **evince** : show
- **tokens** : (here,) virtues like innocence, simplicity, contentment etc.

◆ *What craze do animals never display?*

◆ *What could have happened to the tokens of the poet's self?*

I think I could **turn** and live with animals, they are
so **placid** and **self-contain'd**

I stand and look at them long and long.

They do not sweat and whine about their condition,
They do not lie awake in the dark and weep for their sins,
They do not **make me sick** discussing their duty to God,
Not one is dissatisfied, not one is **demented** with
the **mania** of owning things.

Not one kneels to another, nor to his kind that
lived thousands of years ago,

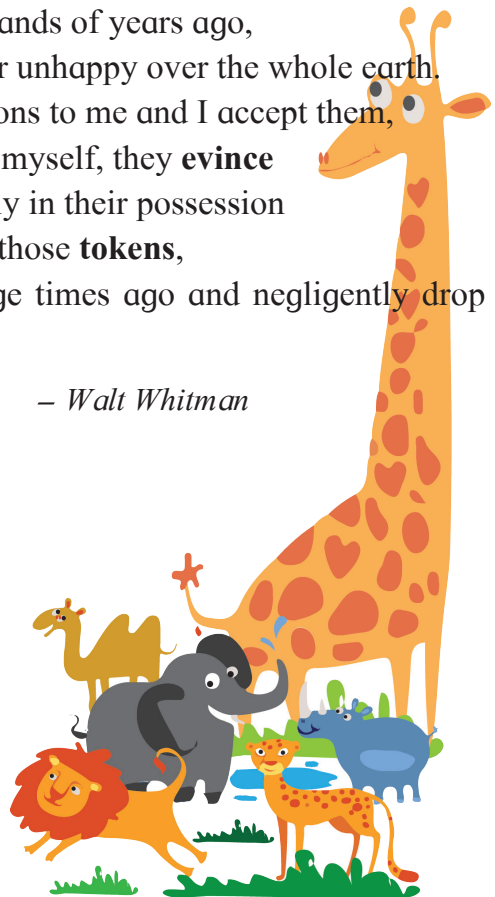
Not one is **respectable** or unhappy over the whole earth.
So they show their relations to me and I accept them,

They bring me tokens of myself, they **evince**
them plainly in their possession

I wonder where they get those **tokens**,

Did I pass that way huge times ago and negligently drop
them?

– Walt Whitman



1. (A) Match the words given in table A with their meanings in table B.

No	A Words		B Meaning
(i)	whine	(a)	an offence against religious or moral law
(ii)	sin	(b)	complain in an annoying way
(iii)	evince	(c)	craze
(iv)	mania	(d)	failing to take proper care
(v)	negligent	(e)	show

(B) Find adjectives from the poem which refer to positive and negative thinking.

Positive	Negative
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

2. Complete the following.

- (a) The poet wishes he could
- (b) Animals do not complain about
- (c) Animals do not merely discuss
- (d) Animals are not crazy about

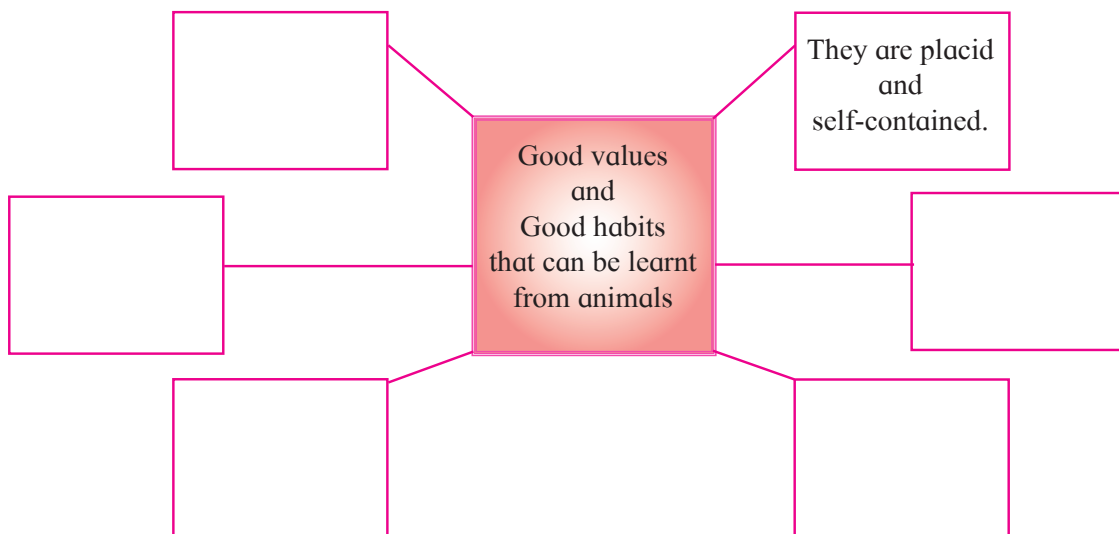
3. State whether the following statements are true or false.

- (a) Animals are self-reliant.
- (b) Animals quarrel for their possessions.
- (c) Animals do not worship other animals.
- (d) Humans have given up many good qualities.
- (e) Animals suffer humiliation.
- (f) The poet has retained all his natural virtues.

4. With the help of the poem find the differences between animals and human beings.

Human beings	Animals
Always complain about their condition	Never complain about anything

5. Read the text again, and complete the web, highlighting the good values/habits which we can learn from animals.



6. Find out lines from the poem that are examples of following Figures of Speech.

Figures of Speech	Lines
• Repetition • Alliteration • Hyperbole	

7. Identify the Figures of Speech in the following lines.

(a) I stand and look at them long and long.

.....

(b) They do not sweat and whine about their condition.

.....

(c) They do not make me sick discussing their duty to God.

.....

(d) not one is demented with the mania of owning things.

.....

(e) They bring me tokens of myself.

.....

(f) No one is respectable or unhappy over the whole earth.

.....

8. Read the poem again and write an appreciation of the poem in a paragraph format with the help of given points. (Refer to page no. 5)

9. Divide the class into two groups. One group should offer points in favour of (views) and the other against (counterviews) the topic ‘Life of an animal is better than that of a human being.’

Later, use the points to express your own views/ counterviews in paragraph format in your notebook.

Hold a healthy discussion on the given topic. Encourage and habituate the students to accept others' opinion, with respect.

