

When the Animals Saved Earth

AN ECO-FABLE

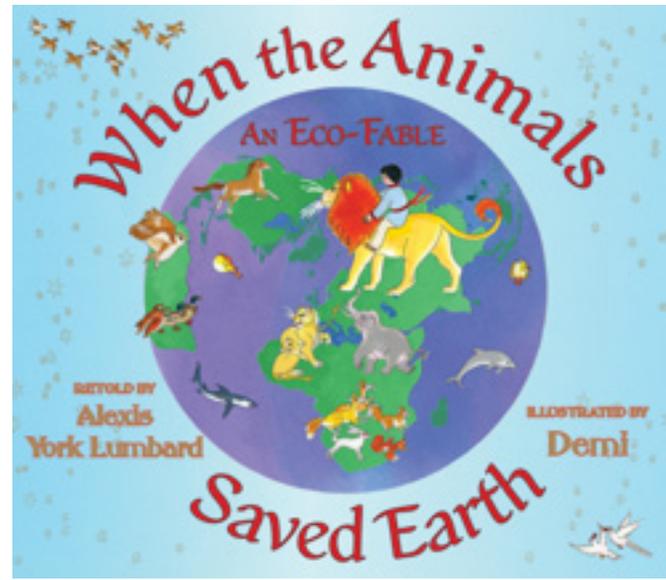
SUMMARY

- This book is inspired by a 1,000 year-old animal rights fable
- The original story, from 10th century Islamic Iraq, was first translated into Hebrew and Latin by a Jewish rabbi for a Christian king
- The narrative presents the perspective of the animals and the experiences of an environmentally sensitive young boy named Adam
- The eco-fable is a useful and engaging tool for discussing the current environmental crisis, its impact on animals, and the role of humans
- It also exposes young readers to concepts such as rights, justice, and the courtroom environment—all within the familiar framework of a folktale setting
- It provides a great tie-in for Earth Day celebrations

ABOUT THE BOOK

On Emerald Island beasts of all kinds live side by side in peace and prosperity. But one day, after a terrible storm, an ark full of people comes to shore. The island quickly changes. Down come trees and up go homes, farms, and a bustling market. The skies grow dark and the water runs dirty. Many of the island's wild animals are turned into beasts of burden. Only young Adam sees the great sadness that weighs upon the animals. In the middle of the night he runs away from home. He is soon befriended by a majestic lion and joins him on an adventure towards freedom and justice. This adventure includes a mysterious fairy or spirit king named Bersaf, a royal courtroom, and a chance for the animals to finally be heard.

\$16.95, 32 pages, hardback, 10x8.75
32 color illustrations
ISBN:978-1-937786-37-3
Lexile® measure—530L, Grade 2 and up



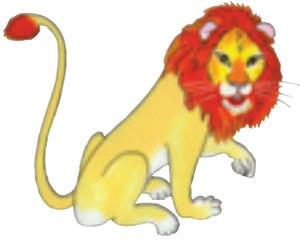
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Alexis York Lumbard is the author of the award-winning titles *The Conference of the Birds* (illustrated by Demi), *Angels* (illustrated by Flavia), and more recently *Everyone Prays* (illustrated by Alireza Sadeghian) and *Pine and the Winter Sparrow* (illustrated by Beatriz Vidal). A busy mother of three, she was motivated to write by her children. With a B.A. in Religious Studies from George Washington University, it is her sincere hope to bring the wisdom and beauty of the world's cultures and religions to the eager minds of young children. Alexis lives with her husband and three daughters in Massachusetts.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Demi is the award-winning author of over 130 bestselling children's books. Her titles have sold over half a million copies. *The Empty Pot* was selected by former First Lady Barbara Bush as one of the books to be read on the ABC Radio Network Program *Mrs. Bush's Story Time*, sponsored by the Children's Literacy Initiative. Demi's book *Gandhi* was named a *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book and received an Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Platinum Award. In addition, she represented the United States at the First International Children's Book Conference in Beijing, China. She lives with her husband in Yarrow Point, WA.

WHEN THE ANIMALS SAVED EARTH — WISDOM TALES DISCUSSION GUIDE



QUESTIONS

1. Where does this story come from? Why do you think it has remained so popular throughout the ages?
2. Why did the humans treat the animals the way they did? Do you think they were justified in doing so?
3. Some animals were captured by the humans. Can you think which ones?
4. Why did Adam have so little interest in the ways of his people?
5. Only Adam could hear the animals' cries. Why?
6. How did the free animals help to save Earth?
7. What do you think about King Bersaf? Was he a fair judge?
8. Do you know how a courtroom works? (Note: Discuss the idea of presenting arguments and of each side being allowed to give their side of the story.) Present the case of the donkey, the ants, or the owl against the humans. Then present the response of the humans. Who do *you* think is right?
9. If animals could speak today, what do you think they would tell us?
10. What can we do today to make the world a better place for humans and animals alike?



VOCABULARY/SPELLING WORDS

- glimmered
- mighty
- chuckled
- unsuspecting
- shackled
- court
- plight
- compassion

ACTIVITIES

1. Read *We Are All Born Free: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Picture*, by Amnesty International (Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2011) and discuss with your classroom the concept of "rights." Ask them to create a "Universal Declaration of Animal Rights" and to turn their list into an illustrated book.
2. Visit www.worldwildlife.org with your students. Have them select one endangered animal each about which they will make a report. Have them include basic facts about the animal, why the animal is endangered, and why they chose it.



COMPLEMENTARY BOOKS TO READ ALOUD:

1. *The Wump World* by Bill Peet
2. *The Curious Garden* by Peter Brown
3. *The Little House* by Virginia Lee Burton
4. *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss