

People Helping Animals





Talk About It

How do people help animals?
What are the differences
between helping wild
animals and helping pets?



Find out more about
helping animals at

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Vocabulary

injury **slurp**
mournful **shrieks**
sympathy **decency**
delivering **bulletin board**



Idioms

An **idiom** is a phrase that cannot be understood from the meanings of the separate words in it. To *pull a person's leg* is an idiom that means to trick or tease. You can often find idioms in a dictionary.

A REAL SURVIVOR

by *Todd Sampson*

“**W**hat was that?” Mom gasped as she suddenly stepped on the brakes of the van. “I think a big bird just hit our windshield,” she said. “We’ve got to go look for it! I bet it has an **injury** that might be causing it some pain.”

At first, I thought she was pulling my leg. Then Mom pulled off to the side of the road and I found the bird within minutes. It was a **mournful** sight, lying there with its sad eyes and broken wings.



“Do you think it’s going to make it?” I whispered to Mom.

Mom’s face was full of caring and **sympathy**. She checked that the bird was breathing and then said we should get help. “There’s a place about an hour away from here called the Raptor Trust. The people there know how to care for injured birds,” she said.

“Let’s go!” I said excitedly. Both of us were intent on **delivering** the bird to the people at the Raptor Trust.

The hawk didn’t make a sound during our drive. Mom and I didn’t say much either. All we did was **slurp** the icy smoothies we bought with lunch as we hoped for the best.

When we finally found the place, I was amazed. So many beautiful birds lived there—hawks, owls, falcons, and eagles. Their loud **shrieks** filled the air. The knowledgeable workers told us the bird we had rescued was a female red-tailed hawk. They explained that sometimes injured birds can be set free. I hoped that would be the case with our hawk.

A veterinarian checked our bird and assured us that she would recover. When it was time to leave, I thanked all the workers for their kindness and **decency** in helping the birds.

I took a picture of my hawk that I planned to pin on the **bulletin board** in my room and I promised her we’d be back to visit. That’s when I knew I had chosen the perfect name for her: Survivor.



Reread for Comprehension



Monitor Comprehension Make Inferences

To make inferences you take clues from the story and combine them with information you already know. This will help you monitor your comprehension or understanding, of the story. Use your Inferences Chart as you reread “A Real Survivor” to make inferences about the characters and events in the story.

Text Clues	What You Know	Inferences