

Social Studies

Genre

Nonfiction Articles present facts about real people, living things, places, or events.

Text Features

Photographs and Captions give visual examples that help explain what the text states.

Content Vocabulary

veterinarian

fractures

anatomy

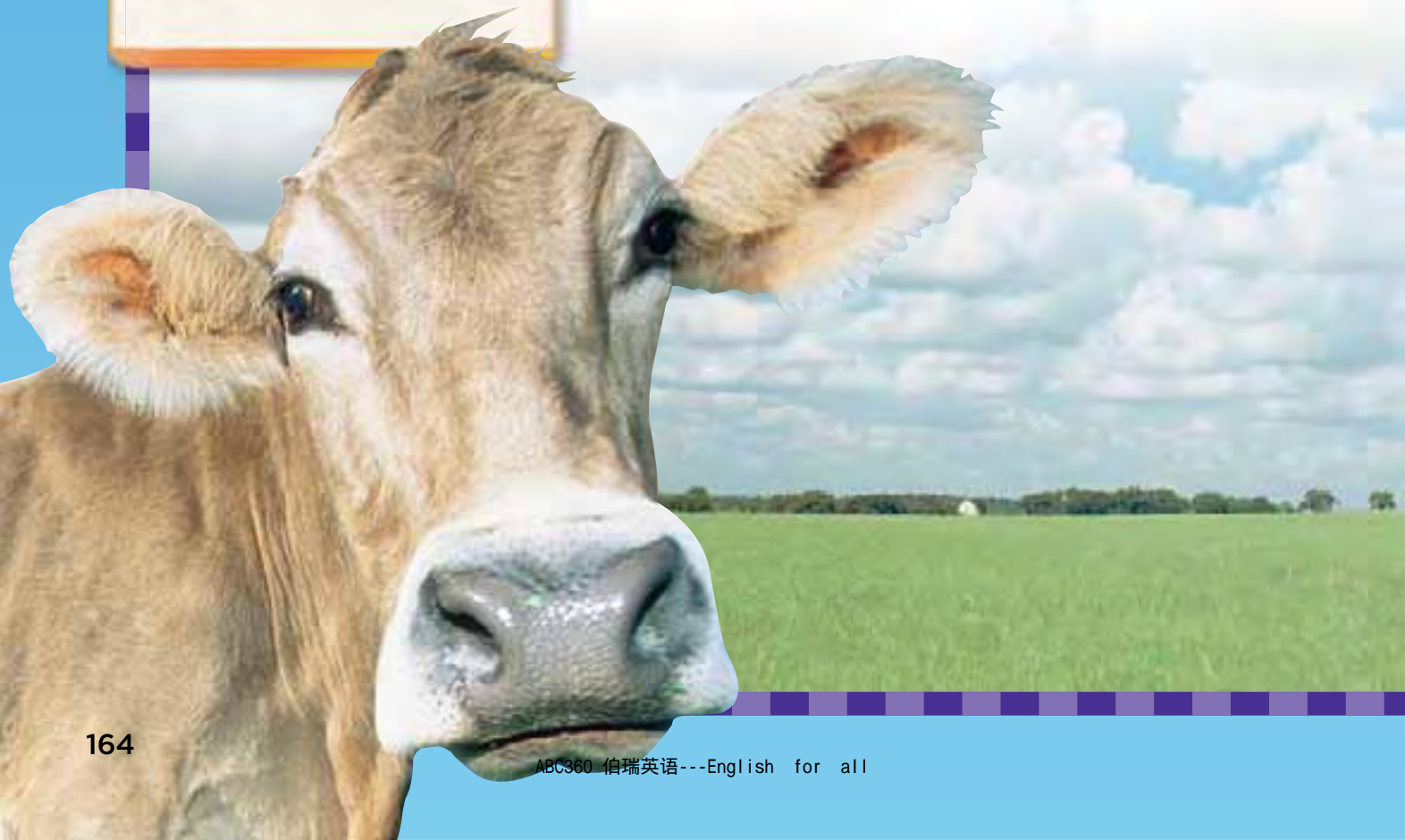
diagnose

contamination

Love at First Sight

by Amy Yin

At age 14 Rexanne Struve fell in love during a visit to a dairy farm. No, Rexanne did not fall in love with a boy on the trip but with a cow. Right then she knew she wanted to work with animals and become a **veterinarian**. To achieve her goal, she had to finish high school, college, and veterinary school. Struve eventually became the first woman veterinarian in Carroll County, Iowa.



As a teenager Struve started preparing for her future. Science was not her favorite subject in high school, but she took as many courses as she could. During the summers she worked as a horseback-riding instructor.

When Struve finished high school, she attended a university in Kansas. Struve says that her high school courses and summer job helped prepare her for her college studies. Struve took more science courses in college. These courses helped her better understand animals and how their bodies work. After college Struve went to veterinary school for four more years. Finally, she graduated and was ready to begin her career as an animal doctor.

In the beginning it was not easy being a female veterinarian. In fact, Struve's grandfather told her that being a vet was not a job for a woman. Even some of her clients felt uneasy around her as she took care of their large animals.

Today, however, Struve has a busy practice where she treats both small and large animals. The farmers with whom she works no longer question her or wonder whether she can do the work. She has proven herself to be the right person for the job.



When animals cannot come to her office, Dr. Struve brings the office to them.

When animals are sick or hurt, Dr. Struve works to make them better. Each year she sees about 800 small animals, such as birds and cats, in her office. She also has about 300 farm clients, including many who own large animals. It is difficult for farmers to bring large animals to Dr. Struve's office, so she brings her office to them. Dr. Struve drives a special truck that holds medicines, equipment, and supplies for surgery. Sometimes Dr. Struve has to operate on animals. She also treats **fractures**, or broken bones, and gives medicine to sick animals.

Dr. Struve sees many different breeds of animals. Once she saw 16 different kinds in one day! Many days start with Dr. Struve traveling in her truck to farms where she treats sheep, hogs, horses, and cattle. Sometimes she even cares for llamas and ostriches. Then she comes back to her office to deal with people's pets.

This variety poses a challenge because Dr. Struve must know the **anatomy** of every animal in order to care for their injuries. She feels rewarded when she can **diagnose** and then treat an illness that is hard to recognize.

Like all veterinarians Dr. Struve does not just take care of sick animals. She also works to keep healthy animals well. She helps bring baby animals into the world. Another big part of her job is to give vaccinations, or shots of medicine, to animals to prevent disease.

This cattle chute holds the cattle still and in the right position. It allows a veterinarian to work safely.



Dr. Struve must be very careful not to spread disease. She does not want germs from one farm to spread to another farm and cause **contamination**. To prevent the spread of disease, Dr. Struve wears coveralls. After she treats a sick animal she takes off her coveralls and washes her boots, too.

Dr. Struve has a tough job. She is on call around the clock, so people often call her late at night. She often works 80 to 90 hours in one week. Dr. Struve also faces danger from some of the animals she works with. They can weigh as much as 1,000 pounds. She has been kicked and bitten by some of her patients. She has even had bones broken. Even so, it was love that led Rexanne Struve to choose her job, and it is love that keeps her there.

Connect and Compare



1. Look at the photograph of the cattle chute on page 166. How does the chute help the vet work safely?

Photographs and Captions

2. Why is Dr. Struve's job important to farmers? **Evaluate**
3. Think about "Love at First Sight" and *Shiloh*. How could someone like Dr. Struve have helped Marty?

Reading/Writing Across Texts



Social Studies Activity

Through research, find a photograph of someone doing a job that you might like to do someday. Find out facts about what the job requires. Write a caption, explaining what training the person needed to get this job.



Find out more about careers at www.macmillanmh.com

Write an Advertisement

Writer's Craft

A Strong Opening

When writers want to persuade audiences, they start with a **strong opening**. Good writers may lead with an interesting question or quotation.

We included this question at the opening of our radio ad.



We told people how we will raise money for the shelter.

Radio Advertisement

ANNOUNCER: Hi! We're Scout Troop Number 92. We're having a fundraiser to help friends in our community. Did you know the folks who run the Marion Animal Shelter are having trouble making ends meet? We're raising money to help them buy pet food.

Show your support by coming with your dirty dog to the school parking lot at Fifth and Main this Saturday. We'll lovingly wash, dry, and brush your pet for only five dollars.

Your happy, sweet-smelling pet will thank you for the treat. Speaking of treats, we've got tasty biscuits for all our dog friends.

Remember, it's this Saturday at Fifth and Main. We'll be there from 9:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. Together we can raise money to save our animals.

Your Turn

Write an advertisement for radio or television that will convince listeners to support an event sponsored by kids. Create a strong opening that will make listeners consider your cause. Use the writer's checklist to check your writing.



Writer's Checklist

- Ideas and Content:** Are the listeners interested in the advertisement because of the **strong opening**?
- Organization:** Do the supporting details of the advertisement keep the audience's attention?
- Voice:** Can the listeners tell from the ad that I really care about the event?
- Word Choice:** Does the advertisement include lots of words with positive connotations?
- Sentence Fluency:** When I read the advertisement aloud, does it flow well?
- Conventions:** Did I capitalize proper nouns?
Did I check my spelling?