



All Things Animal

TOP READS FROM VOICELESS

During tough times, we turn to books to inspire, entertain and broaden our minds. Here we've listed a few of our favourites for our Voiceless Community to enjoy. Happy reading!

Non-Fiction

Books that spark new insights and deep reflection.

1

The Inner Life of Animals by Peter Wohlleben

Weaving together hundreds of awe-inspiring stories and fascinating research studies, Wohlleben demonstrates how animals do not solely rely only on their instincts, as many believe. In fact, they have deep, rich and complex experiences of themselves, their social groups and the world. Wohlleben has lived in nature and spent a lifetime working to protect wildlife in Northern Europe. He has a deep appreciation and respect of the many creatures he encounters. This deep dive into wildlife research and science is combined with laugh out loud funny insights and demonstrates the deep appreciation and respect Wohlleben has for the many creatures he encounters.

2

Beyond Beliefs by Melanie Joy

An excellent book for vegans who are navigating precious family, partner or friend relationships with those who either don't share the same philosophies about animals, or who do share them but are not (yet) practising via their dietary choices. Dr Joy is an expert food psychologist and relationship coach with helpful advice and support.

3

The Pig Who Sang to the Moon by Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson

Masson explores the emotional world of farmed animals with his usual engaging writing style. These are the creatures we use and abuse but rarely stop to pause and consider, such as; chickens, cows, sheep and goats. Like his other bestsellers, Masson (who is also a Director of Voiceless) reveals their inner worlds and the love, loyalty, friendship, sadness, grief, and sorrow they experience.

4

Clean Meat by Paul Shapiro

Imagine a future where factory farming ceases to exist, and the mass suffering of billions of sentient animals ends. It is truly within our grasp. For those people who have a hard time imagining their diet without meat, dairy, or eggs – the development of safe, healthy, cell-based animal products that taste, smell and feel the same, will mean they can 'have their cake and eat it too'. This is the future of our food and we are excited by the exponential growth of this industry over the last few years.

5

Animal Rights: Current Debates and New Directions by Peter Singer, Steven Wise et al

This is a must-read for anyone interested in the moral and legal status of non-human animals. It brings together some of the biggest names in animal rights theory to debate the source, scope and status of non-human animal rights. Authors include; Peter Singer, Steven Wise (who runs the [Nonhuman Rights Project](#) in the US), Gary Francione and David Favre. Reading this book provides a comprehensive and thought-provoking introduction to the field. A must-read for anyone trying to understand why sentient beings are currently denied fundamental rights under our legal systems.

Children's Fiction

It's never too early to start building empathy and kindness. These classic stories are perfect for growing minds and hearts.

1

Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl

This delightful book follows a smart fox named Mr Fox who's a devoted husband and father of four. We watch as he outwits three farmers with the help of his burrowing friends and a creative maze of underground tunnels.

2

The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter

This book was first published 118 years ago – but it hasn't lost its charm. Peter is a cheeky rabbit who gets himself in a spot of trouble in the garden of Mr McGregor. The illustrations are simply beautiful.

3

Dot and the Kangaroo by Ethel Pedley

Dot is a young girl who's lost in the Australian outback. She makes friends with several native animals including a kangaroo who takes her in her pouch, and with the help of some magic berries, Dot begins to communicate with the animals. If you haven't watched [the stunning 1977 film](#) – it's a must see!

4

The Complete Adventures of Snuggle Pot and Cuddle Pie by May Gibbs

This true-blue Aussie series was first published in 1918. The two young protagonists are modelled on the nuts of Eucalyptus (gum tree) while the villains resemble a Banksia. The stories were adapted into a ballet and musical and today, all royalties are donated to charitable organisations.

5

The Lorax by Dr Seuss

This beloved story follows the Lorax who speaks for the trees. It shows how easily our environment can be destroyed and inspires young people to get involved in protecting our earth. Dr Seuss is still regularly quoted with his call to action - "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

Young Adult Fiction

Books for tweens that bring us into the world of animal emotions and explore key issues in age-appropriate ways.

1

No Entry by Gila Green

We adored the novel's setting as we're transported into a remote wildlife rescue centre in South Africa. The reader is taken on a journey with a teenage girl named Yael as she discovers an illegal poaching ring and must overcome many challenges to find her voice and summon the strength to act.

"There are so many simple things you can do to educate yourself about animals and animal cruelty. The number one urgency, I would say, is to stop the ivory trade. Lawmakers must be pressured by their constituents to pass stronger laws against ivory sales. Start petitions, write to your local lawmakers, find out what laws exist and how they can be changed." Gila Green.

2

Dogs of India by Polly McGee

In her work of fiction, Australian writer, Polly McGee explores the world of street dogs and roaming monkeys. Set on the colourful streets of India, a lost dog is looking for home and a local monkey is crazed with dreams of power. McGee's writing takes us inside the animals' heads where we experience their thoughts and life stories.

"As a kid, I was always trying to sneak new pets home and just had a sense of animals as being special and wise in ways humans weren't... The more I've gotten into living life through the lens of yoga and Buddhism, the more I've really connected with the idea of all of us being equal as sentient beings, not just as an intellectual concept, but that we are all of equal value, and that we must treat everyone, including animals with love and compassion." Polly McGee.

3

Endangered by Eliot Schrefer

Schrefer's dramatic tale takes us into the fascinating world of a Bonobo sanctuary in The Democratic Republic of Congo. Sophie, the teen protagonist, saves the life of a young bonobo called Otto from the black market and subsequently finds herself and the group of bonobos in danger. The relationship between Sophie and Otto is magical and the reader learns an enormous amount about these intelligent apes. Be prepared to be swept away by this powerful story and beautiful location.

4

Amanda the Teen Activist by Catherine Kelaher

This story follows a young teenager, Amanda, on her quest to help battery hens. Kelaher, draws on her experience running [NSW Hen Rescue](#) to weave a vivid and authentic tale. This action-packed read also explores relationships with family and friends and is perfect for upper-primary school aged kids.

5

The Trap by Robin Lamont

Lamont draws on her experiences as an undercover investigator and prosecutor to create a powerful protagonist; Jude. *The Trap* is a page-turning eco-thriller that follows Jude's quest to protect wild wolves from the activities of a US government agency. We learn about the complexities of wildlife management and the war between wild predators and ranchers.

6

Sky and Snow by Ondine Sherman

Sky and Snow are part of the Animal Allies Series written by Voiceless Co-founder and Managing Director, Ondine Sherman. The Series follows the life of Sky - a young Australian animal-loving teen. The novels allow young teens to explore aspects of animal cruelty and activism, set against the story of Sky's growing acceptance of herself and her place in the world.

"I am delighted to hear young people respond to Sky and find themselves pondering the animal issues she is faced with. It is only through engagement and critical thinking that we can tackle the complex issues of our human-animal relationship and navigate pathways to real and lasting change". Ondine Sherman, Voiceless Co-Founder and YA Author.

Keep an eye out for the next in the series, *Star*, due for release August 2020.

We've created [curriculum aligned English resources](#) for high school teachers that explore this series in depth, accessible for free from the Voiceless website: www.voiceless.org.au/schools

All author proceeds from the Animal Allies Series are donated to Voiceless.

Let us know if we've missed your favourite animal protection themed book!

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