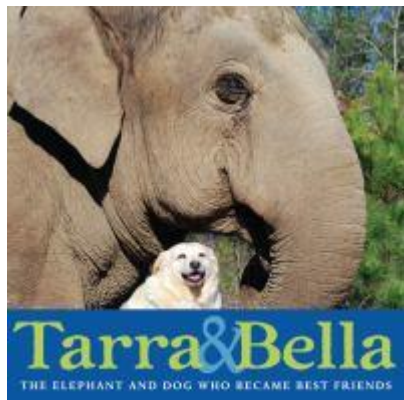


Library Lesson Plan: Unlikely Animal Friends

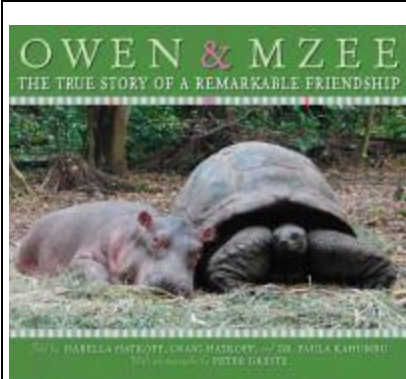
Grades: K-3rd grade

1. Start with asking students to bring in a YouTube video suggestion (under 5 minutes) of an “unlikely animal friendship” and introducing the video before playing them for the class. (You can vet these and/or choose your own videos.)
2. Introduce the lesson with: “Today [or this week] we are going to be reading and learning about animals who befriend each other in surprising ways.”
3. Lead discussion about why these friendships are “unlikely”. Responses should include:
 - Animals normally only associate with animals from their own species.
 - Many times, animals are either predators or preys of other animals, so it’s surprising when they work together to help each other.
4. Depending on the reading level of your students, you may want to read aloud one or all of the following books, stopping to check for understanding and to write notes as a class, or ask students to work in pairs to read and take notes in order to present what they have learned to the class. These are all books you can find at the Tulsa City-County Library:



[Tarra & Bella](#): The Elephant and Dog Who Became Best Friends by Carol Buckley

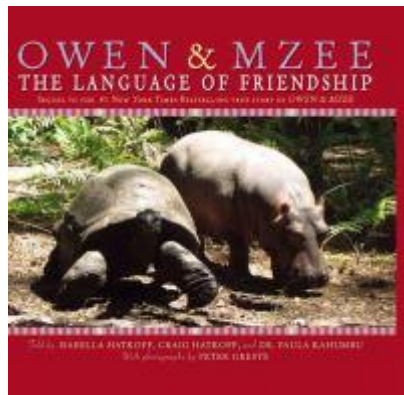
A stray Labrador named Bella befriends Tarra, a former circus elephant and resident of the Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee. While the pairing is unusual, the two are inseparable--even when a crisis threatens to separate them. Based on the national media sensation, this is a true story of friendship and loyalty.



[Owen & Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship](#)

by Isabella Hatkoff

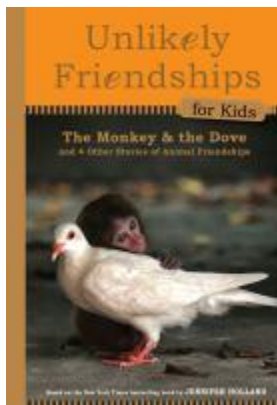
The amazing true story of the orphaned baby hippo and 130-year-old giant turtle whose remarkable friendship touched millions around the world. When Owen was stranded after the Dec 2004 tsunami, villagers in Kenya worked tirelessly to rescue him. Then, to everyone's amazement, the orphan hippo and the elderly tortoise adopted each other. Now they are inseparable, swimming, eating, and playing together.



[Owen & Mzee: The Language of Friendship](#) by Isabella

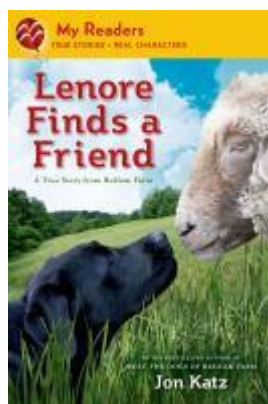
Hatkoff

Continues the story of the unusual friendship between Owen, a young orphaned hippo, and Mzee, a 130-year old Aldabra tortoise.



[Unlikely Friendships: The Monkey & the Dove](#) by Jennifer Holland

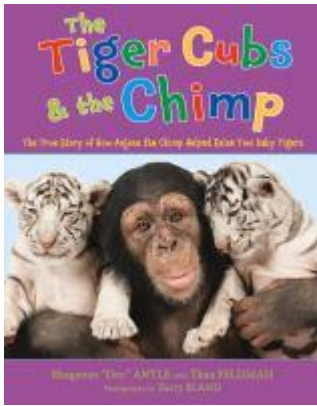
Presents five stories about animals who have forged unlikely, abiding bonds with other animals of different species, from the rhesus monkey and the white dove to the lion and the baby oryx.



[Lenore Finds A Friend: A True Story From Bedlam Farm](#) by

Jon Katz

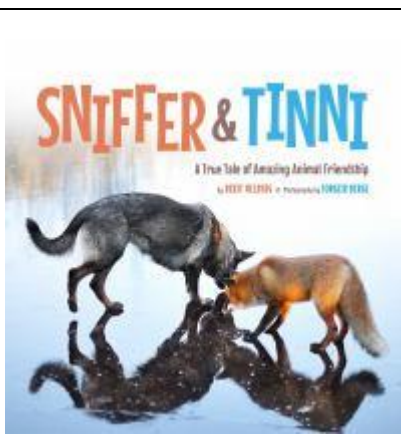
Presents the story of misfit black lab Lenore, who is ignored by the unwelcoming and busy animals at Bedlam Farm until she playfully licks a grumpy ram with whom she forges an unlikely friendship.



[The Tiger Cubs & the Chimp: The True Story of How Anjana the Chimp Helped Raise Two Baby Tigers](#)

By Bhagavan Antle

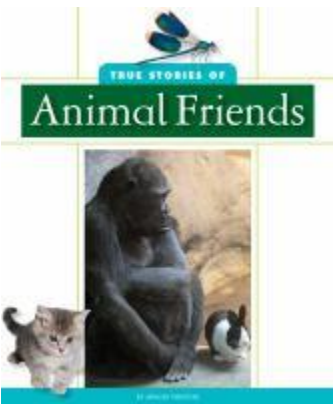
When two baby white tigers on an animal preserve get into trouble during a storm, they are taken in by a human animal worker named China and her helper, a chimpanzee named Anjana. China and Anjana soon become the tigers' mothers, playing and cuddling with the cubs as they grow big and strong.



[Sniffer & Tinni: A True Tale of Amazing Animal Friendship](#)

by Berit Helberg

A fox and a German Shepherd living in a small Norwegian town become best friends.



[True Stories of Animal Friends](#) by Arnold Ringstad

Collects stories of unusual animal friendships, from a gorilla befriending a rabbit to a cheetah and a dog that are best friends.

	<p><u>Unlikely Friendships: The Leopard & the Cow</u> by Jennifer Holland</p> <p>Presents five stories about animals who have forged unlikely, abiding bonds with other animals of different species, from the leopard and the cow to the rhinoceros and the baby warthog.</p>
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5. Use the following graphic organizer to collect thoughts about each of the stories about “unlikely animal friendships”. These can be done as a class, in small groups, as individuals, or a combination of all three, depending on how many books you want to use.
6. Using the notes from the graphic organizer, ask students to write one sentence for each of the four sentence types: Statement (declarative), Question (interrogative), Exclamation (exclamatory), and Command (imperative).

Examples:

- Statement: Cheetahs and dogs are both mammals, but they don’t usually grow up in the same place.
 - Question: Have you ever heard of a turtle and a hippo becoming best friends?
 - Exclamation: Sniffer and Tinni do everything together!
 - Command: Sit back and listen to the tale of an elephant and a dog who love each other.
7. EXTENSION: This is a terrific opportunity for a creative writing activity! Assign or ask students to choose two animals who would be unlikely friends and then write/illustrate a story with a page for each section: 1) introduction of each animal (give each one a name!) 2) how they met 3) what problem they solved together or what made them start working together 4) how they help each other. ALTERNATIVE: Choose one of the unlikely animal friendship pairs to write a NEW adventure where they help save a third animal.

Graphic Organizer: Unlikely Animal Friendships

What species are the two animals?	Where do they live?
How did they meet?	What are some ways we know they are friends?
How do they help each other?	Why do you think they are friends?