

EXCERPT TO WRITE ABOUT

*Foreword by Jane Goodall*From *Untamed: The Wild Life of Jane Goodall*

by Anita Silvey

► **Directions:**

- Read through the foreword written by Jane Goodall to determine her purpose and her point of view. Think about what she wants the reader to do.
- Read a second time and highlight words or phrases that help you determine purpose and point of view.
- Annotate *how* those words support your thinking.

As you will learn in this book, I have loved animals all my life. When I was a child, growing up in England, I had various pets, ranging from dogs and cats to guinea pigs and hamsters. But what was most special was being out in nature, watching birds and insects, learning about how they lived their lives.

Because of my passion for learning about animals, I saved up money to buy a ticket to Africa—and was offered the chance to live with and learn about not just any animal but the one most like us, the chimpanzee.

Chimpanzees are more like humans than any other living animal. They have personalities—each one is as different from every other as we are from one another. They have minds that can solve simple problems. They have emotions like happiness and sadness, anger and frustration, and grief. More than 50 years ago, scientists told us that only humans had personalities, thinking

minds, and emotions. When I began writing that chimpanzees did too, I was criticized. But I had learned all this long before from my childhood teacher—my dog Rusty!

Now it is known that there is no sharp line separating us from the other animals. Now we know that many other species of animals—including birds and octopuses!—can solve problems. When it comes to feeling pain, science has now proved that fish and lobsters can feel pain. There is so much more to learn.

I hope some of you will want to learn about animals by watching your pets or the wildlife around your home, or, one day perhaps, wolves or bears, lions or kangaroos. And I hope, too, that you will help us protect them. So many animals today are endangered—often because we are destroying the habitats where they live. If we do not work together for conservation, many of these animals will become extinct. And we must not let that happen.

- **Write about reading:** What is Jane Goodall’s point of view? Write a response sharing what you think her purpose and point of view are and how you determined them. Make sure to include at least three details from the text to support your thinking.

Note: In this foreword, Jane Goodall, the famous primatologist, makes an elegant, simple appeal to her audience: protect wild animals. One reason it is powerful and persuasive is that it’s not heavy handed. She builds up to “And I hope, too, that you will help us protect them” by a broader invitation to her young readers to follow in her footsteps. That is, she describes how her passion for researching chimpanzees began with a somewhat ordinary childhood and somewhat ordinary childhood curiosity about the birds and insects in her backyard. And it grew from there! Goodall also deftly makes the profound point that pioneers of every kind often have to hold true to their theories and discoveries, even in the face of a world that has yet to be convinced and may, in fact, believe the opposite of what the pioneer is asserting as a “new” truth. That was true of Goodall, whose groundbreaking research opened the door for research on other animals that pursued questions like, What “human” emotions and cognitive processes is this species capable of? Goodall writes with restraint, never boasting of her contribution but making it clear she is a game changer.

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