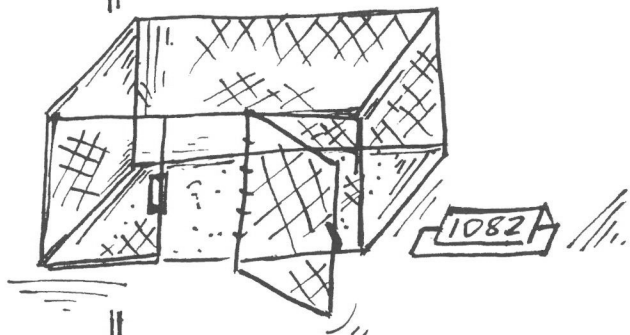


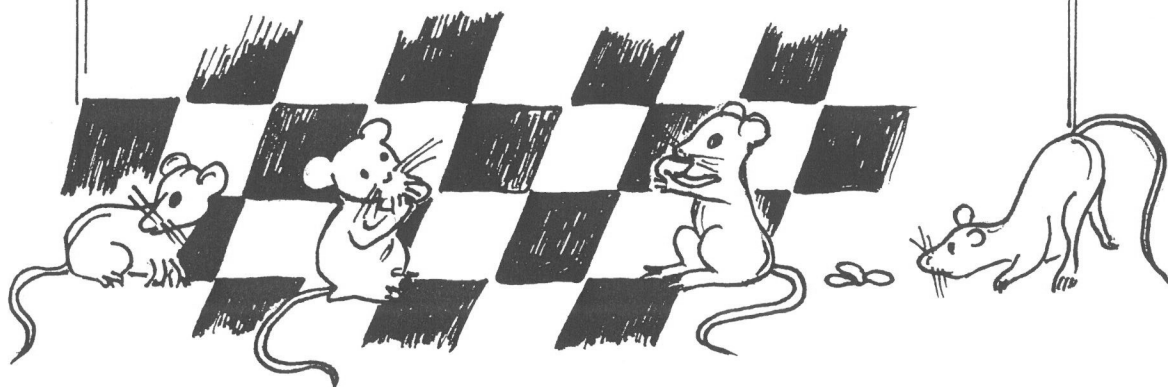


Animal Experimentation

Do you know
the full story?



A literature based programme
for upper-primary, lower-secondary
students.



About the Programme:

The following programme of ideas and activities for upper-primary / lower secondary students is based on Robert C-O'Brien's novel –
"Mrs Frisby and the Rats of NIMH"

This novel deals with the controversial issue of the practice of animal experimentation – A fascinating topic which will most certainly incite some deep thought and interesting discussion.

The following agencies/organizations will be able to assist you with information for the exploration of this topic:

- QLD INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH
The Bancroft Centre
300 Herston Road
Herston 4006 PH: 3362 0222
- QLD STATE UNIVERSITY - ST. LUCIA PH: 3365 1111
- RSPCA
301 Fairfield Road
Fairfield 4103 PH: 3848 0522
- ANIMAL LIBERATION QLD
Shop 131 Melbourne Street
South Brisbane 4101 PH: 3844 5782



Note: If you reside outside Queensland refer to the same agency in your state.



Mrs Frisby and the Rats of NIMH

A story sequencing activity



Place the following events in order as they occur in the story. Then illustrate each event.

Mrs Frisby learns of how her husband died

The exterminators visit Fitzgibbons' Farm

Mrs Frisby is captured and kept prisoner in a bird cage

Seven dead rats are found in a hardware store

Timothy falls sick with pneumonia

The rats escape from NIMH

Jenner leaves the group

Mrs Frisby meets Brutus at the rosebush

Jeremy takes Mrs Frisby to see the owl

Moving day

Strategies for Language Use and Literary Responses

Language

- Create word bank
- Select a number of words from the word bank and make a one page 'glossary'
- List adjectives used in the story. Find synonyms and antonyms for these.
- Complete 'cloze' activity attached.
- Complete story sequence activity and illustrate.

Newspaper Report

You are a news-paper reporter who has stumbled across the cave of the Rats of NIMH. Write a 'Front Page' exclusive describing what you have seen!

Crossword

Create a Rats of NIMH crossword for your friends. Use the story to make clues.

Map

Design and draw a detailed map of Fitzgibbons Farm. Include the homes of the Frisbys, Mr. Ages etc.

Response to Text

Did you enjoy the book?
Why?
Could you identify with the characters?
Discuss Robert C.O'Brien's use of 'flashbacks' to tell the story.
Record 'flashback' events - From whose 'point of view' are these events told?
How did the book make you feel? - Keep a 'journal' of your reactions to the story, 'as you go.'
Discuss major themes of the story.

"Dear Diary"

Recall the sequence of events leading up to 'moving day.'
Record Mrs Frisby's activities and feelings during this time as diary entries (from Mrs Frisby's point of view.)

Literary Interview

In groups: interview Nicodemus - "Nicodemus tell me about 'The Plan.'"
and Jenner - "Why did you decide to leave the group?"

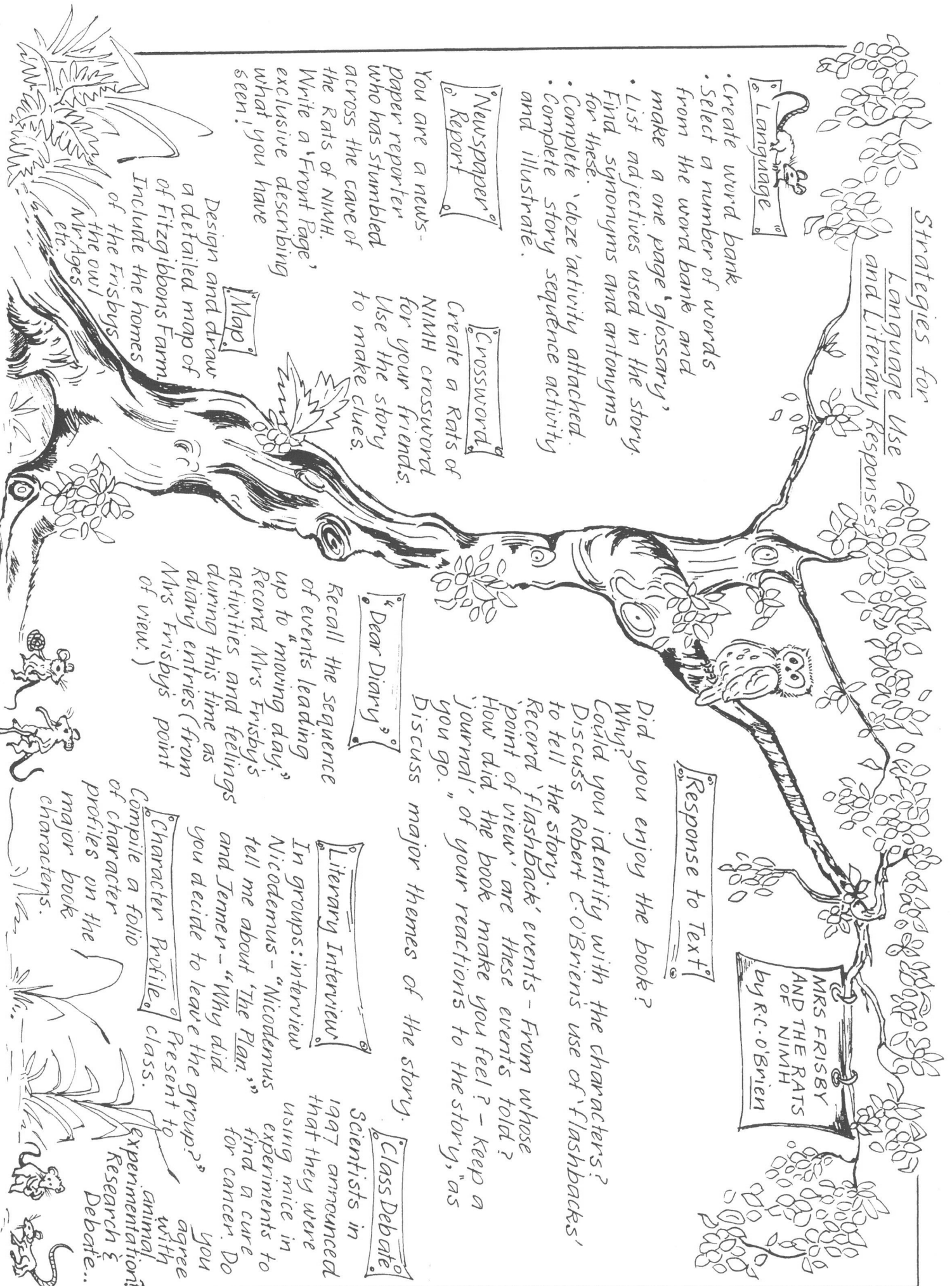
Character Profile

Compile a folio of character profiles on the major book characters.

Class Debate

Scientists in 1997 announced that they were using mice in experiments to find a cure for cancer. Do you agree with animal experimentation? Research & Debate..

MRS FRISBY
AND THE RATS
OF NIMH
by R.C.O'Brien



Mrs Frisby and the Rats of NIMH

A Cloze Activity

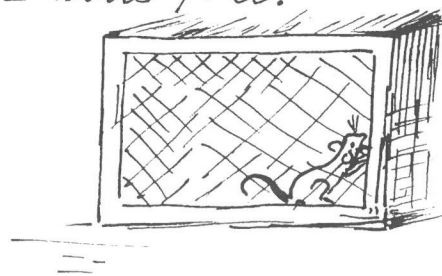
Read the passage carefully and select an appropriate word to fill each of the spaces.

The Maze

During the _____ that followed, our lives fell into a pattern and the _____ for our captivity became clear. Dr Schultz was a neurologist - that is, an expert on brains, nerves, intelligence, and how people learn things. _____ hoped, by experimenting on _____, to find out whether certain injections could help us to _____ more and faster. The _____ younger people working with _____, George and Julie, _____ graduate workers in biology.

'Watch always,' he told _____, 'for signs of improvement, faster learning, quicker reaction in group A as _____ to group B, and both as compared to the control group.'

My own training _____ on the day after the first injections. It was George who _____ it; I suppose Julie and Dr Schultz were _____ the same test on other rats. He took my _____ from the shelf and _____ it to another room, similar to the _____ one but with more equipment _____ it, and no shelves of cages. _____ placed the cage _____ a slot against a wall, slid open the end, _____ a matching door in the wall - and I was free.



Animal Experimentation

Research Project / Class Debate

Preparation



What do I know?

- Brainstorm - Individually, in groups, as class
- Share and record information - everything you know, have heard or feel on this subject.

What do I need to know?

Gathering information:

- Access books, magazines, newspaper articles, the internet
- Write to suggested organizations requesting information, brochures, statistics
- Invite guest speakers into the classroom - compile a list of questions for visitors in advance
- Devise and conduct a survey to determine public opinion on the issue of animal experimentation
- Complete survey of various household / supermarket cosmetics & toiletries - Product check - do they use animal testing?

Suggested Survey Questions:

Are you aware that cosmetic and toiletry products are tested on animals?

Do you think that cosmetics/toiletries should be tested on animals and would you feel safe using a cosmetic or toiletry product that had not been tested on animals?

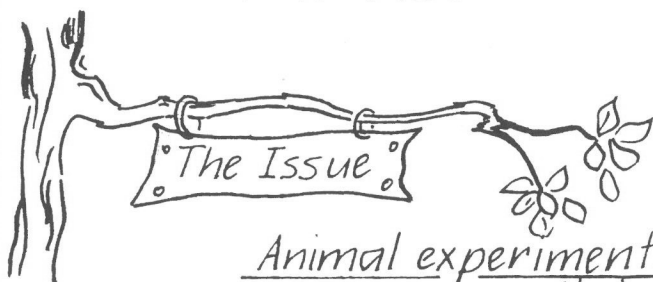
Do you approve of animals being used for medical research?
Add your own questions...

RESEARCH PROJECT / CLASS DEBATE



The following plan has been designed to assist students in gathering information to complete :

- a. Individual research projects
and /or
- b. A class debate



Animal experimentation - Is it a necessary evil in society today?

What do you think?

Research Ideas:

- Make a list of reasons for animal experimentation
Are these reasons, in your opinion, good / bad... why?
- What types of experiments are conducted on animals
for a.) cosmetic purposes b.) medical research
- Make a list of major diseases/health conditions
suffered by Australians for which scientists are
currently researching to find cures.
- List animals used in these experiments. Why are
only certain animals used?
- How effective are the various tests?
Are there any alternatives to animal testing for the
quality testing of cosmetics/toiletries and medical research.
- Compile a list of
 - a.) Health organizations who use animal testing for
research purposes
 - b.) Australian companies who have a NO ANIMAL TESTING
policy eg: The Body Shop.