W6A, Lesson 5, Journal 5-6, Draft 1

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Prompt: Read the given article and write the journals.

**Journal 5 Prompt: Write a 200-300 word summary, using at least 3 direct quotes.**

**Summary**

This news report is about the many coconut farmers in Thailand who use monkeys to pick coconuts and sell them to make products like coconut milk. Although coconut milk is good and safe to drink compared to cow milk, which is cruel to the cow, many people don’t know that coconut farmers use monkeys to pick coconuts from the trees and that it is more cruel than milking cows.

Some monkeys need to pick more than one thousand coconuts a day and cannot rest because the farmers force the monkey to work. They are very mean to the monkeys and they pull out the monkeys’ teeth. Then after the monkeys have finish picking coconuts all day, some farmers might make them go to the circus to make more money entertaining people. So the monkeys are so tired!

PETA Asia investigators have visited many farms and know that the farmers use monkeys to pick coconuts. It is true. So to improve the monkeys’ lives, many shops that sold coconut milk from the monkey-harvested coconuts are now closed, and in other places people do not use monkeys to pick coconut anymore. We can all drink coconut milk without using monkeys.

**Journal 6 Prompt: You opinion of the situation. Do you agree or disagree with the writer? What do you think?**

**Monkey and coconut milk**

After I read the news about the monkeys and the coconuts, I thought it was very terrible because the people abused the monkeys and even pulled out their teeth! It’s the worst thing that I have ever seen!

Where monkeys forced to pick your coconut? I think monkeys are just innocent animals. Some are forced to pick more than one thousand coconuts per day. The coconut trees are very tall and dangerous, so if a monkey falls down maybe it would die. How terrible! And the worst is the people who use monkeys. They pull out the monkeys’ teeth! Just to make some money, they abuse the monkey and hurt it! If I ever train a monkey, then I would give food and plenty of time to rest and sleep. I would not abuse it; I will give it a treat for every 10 coconuts it picks for me.

But think about it from another point of view. If we don’t need monkeys, then we could just climb the trees or use some tools to pick the coconuts. If people climb the trees themselves, it would be more dangerous than using the monkeys because they are good at climbing trees. If a monkey dies or if a human dies, which is worse? Of course, if a human dies we lose more. So in my opinion, we can still use monkeys to pick coconuts. But we need to give them time to rest and good food, and not pull out their teeth.