

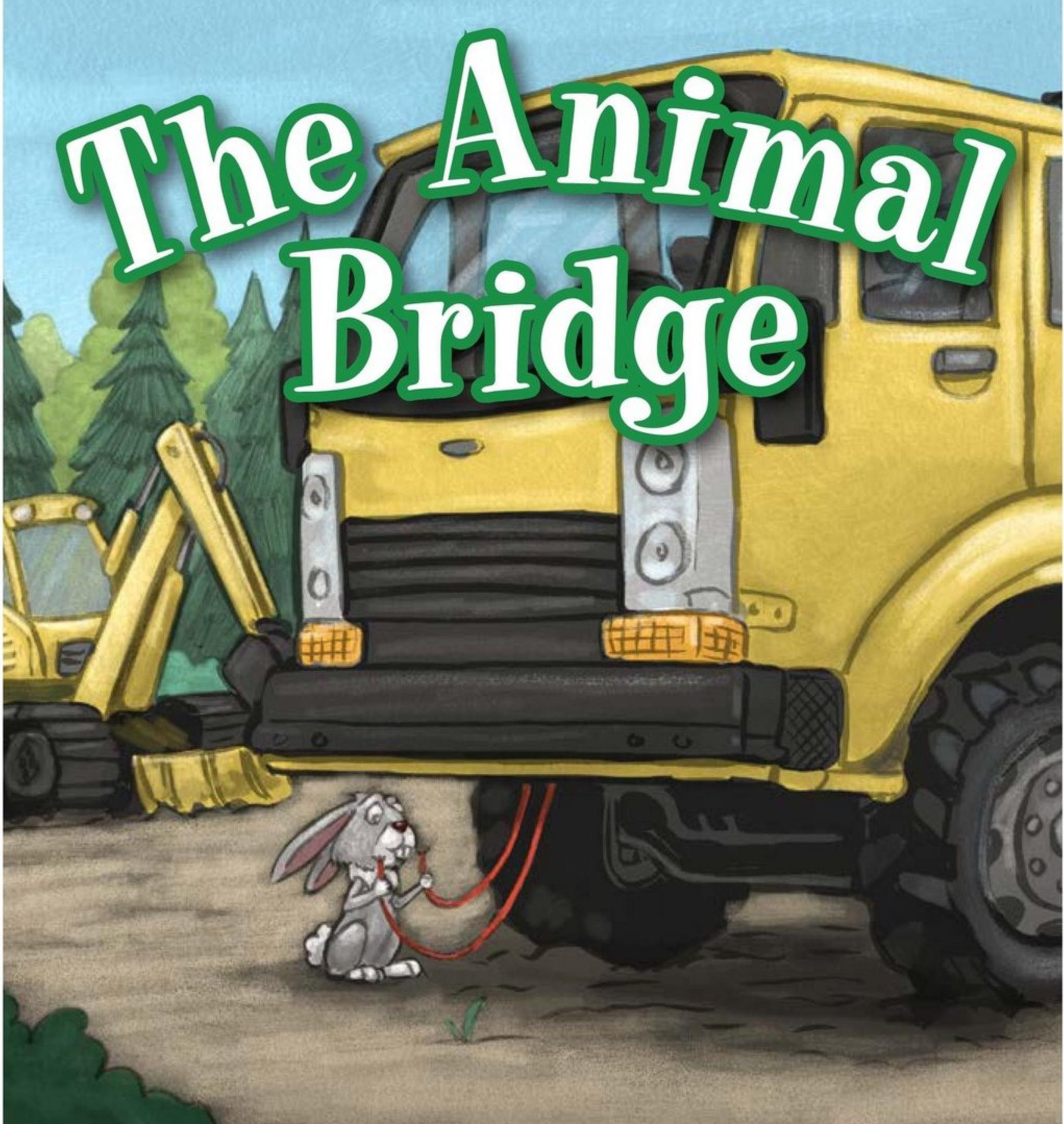
LEVELED Book • L

The Animal Bridge

MULTI
level
I-L-O

Written by Marcie Aboff
Illustrated by Mark Meyers

www.readinga-z.com



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Focus Question

How do the animals' feelings change during the story?

Words to Know

construction
dizzy
encouraging

fumed
humans
sprayed

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Level L Leveled Book
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Correlation

LEVEL L	
Fountas & Pinnell	K
Reading Recovery	18
DRA	20



Bear was happily munching on some forest berries. Blue Jay swooped down next to him. Then, Rabbit hopped alongside them.

“The **humans** are building again,” Rabbit said.

“Oh no, not another **construction** project!” Bear cried.

“Those humans have brought their trucks back into our forest. They’re chopping down trees and digging into the dirt and grass,” said Blue Jay.

Bear grabbed a bunch of berries
and sat down by a tree to think.
He wondered if his favorite berry
bushes would be gone soon, too.





Bear noticed Deer walking toward him, her head down.

Bear asked, “What’s wrong, Deer?”

Deer moaned, “I’m all alone. I got cut off from my herd near Moss Trail. Now I’m too scared to cross the road to join them.”

“Enough is enough!” fumed Bear.
“We need to do something to stop the humans,” he added.



The animals came together to talk about the humans and their new bridge.

Rabbit took the lead, **encouraging** the animals. “We’re smart,” she said. “We will do whatever we can to stop the humans!”

The other animals agreed.

Rabbit showed off her two front teeth. “My big teeth can chew through anything,” she bragged.

“I can hop underneath their trucks and chew through wires. Without their trucks working properly, the humans can’t dig up the land,” she said.





Rabbit dashed like lightning toward Moss Trail. When she got there, she chewed wires under a parked truck. She was chewing hard on a wire when . . . *snap!* The wire split, but one of her big teeth cracked.

The construction carried on.

Moose boasted, “My strong antlers can ram into anything.”



Moose marched proudly to the forest. Headfirst, he rammed into a truck. He made a dent. He kept hitting the truck again and again until he was **dizzy**. He spun around and fell to the ground.

The construction carried on.

Skunk bragged, “My stench can drive away the workers!”



Skunk ran down to Moss Trail and sprayed the workers. They covered their faces with masks to block the smell.

The construction carried on.

The animals went to check on the humans. They were upset to see the humans still working in the forest.

Rabbit cried, “We failed. We didn’t drive away the humans.”

Bear sighed, “No matter what we do, we can’t seem to get rid of those humans.”

The animals felt disappointed for a long time.





Then one day, they saw something strange. They watched the workers put dirt and grass over the bridge.

Soon the workers left the bridge.

Then, the animals saw them by the busy road underneath the bridge. They were putting up signs by the side of the road.



“Hey, that’s a picture of me. I think this bridge was made for us,” Bear said.

“The humans are trying to help us! They turned their bridge into an animal bridge,” Moose said.



Deer said, “Now I can find my herd. See you on the other side of the forest.”

Then she bounded away.



The animals stood looking down
at the busy traffic far below.

“Hooray for our bridge!”
Bear cheered.

Glossary

construction <i>(n.)</i>	the act of making or building something (p. 3)
dizzy (<i>adj.</i>)	feeling as though one is spinning and losing one's balance (p. 9)
encouraging <i>(v.)</i>	urging someone in a helpful way to do something (p. 6)
fumed (<i>v.</i>)	felt or showed anger (p. 5)
humans (<i>n.</i>)	people (p. 3)
sprayed (<i>v.</i>)	sprinkled or forced out many drops of a liquid (p. 10)

The Animal Bridge

A *Reading A-Z Level L Leveled Book*

Word Count: 517

Connections

Writing

Pretend you are one of the animals in the story. Write a friendly letter to the humans. Include your feelings about the bridge before and after it was made.

Science

Think about the habitat of each animal in the story. Discuss with a partner what each animal needs to live.

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