

Buffalo Trace Education Box Lesson 8

If A Bison Could Give Advice...

Purpose: Students will read advice from a bison and find attributes that pertain to the advice. Students will use personification while writing their own original advice from an animal's point of view.

Subject Areas: Language Arts, Creative Writing, Life Science

Materials Needed: "Advice" from a bison (see below) (or go to yourtruenature.com for advice from living things and graphics to display), "If A Bison Could Give Advice" fill-in paper (provided)

Steps:

1. Discuss the terms attribute (quality; something distinctive), advice (guidance; recommendation regarding a decision) and the use of personification in writing (in this lesson, giving an animal personal human qualities).
2. Discuss "What attributes do we know/learned about bison?" and "What if a bison could give us advice?"
3. Tell or display the "Advice." Go over the unfamiliar terms in the advice, such as "Cherish (treasure, value) wide open spaces."
4. As a class, complete the fill-in paper with corresponding attributes. (Suggestions are below.) To provide more practice, look for other "Advice From A --" at yourtruenature.com.
5. Have students write their own "If A _____ Could Give Advice ..." (A fill-in form is provided with headings.) For inspiration and depending on your time limits, you may want to have students go outdoors and do a "field trip" around the school. Illustrate the advice.

Extensions:

- Compare the student's writing with advice from Your True Nature website.
- If you have less time, have students write advice in the form of a tweet (using a word count limit of 40-100 characters).
- Try an item from the classroom, such as "If the stapler could give advice..."
- Research the symbiotic relationship of buffalo birds (cowbirds) and bison. Compose a tweet "If a Buffalo bird could give advice to a bison..." Read [Yeti and the Bird](#) (by Natalie Shireen) that discusses friendship in a fun way.

Differentiation:

- Limit the writing to three advice statements or require seven-ten advice statements.
- Provide an animal's attributes or have students work with partners.
- Require and have students cite research from reliable sources (technology and/or print) for each of the attributes.

Resources:

- yourtruenature.com/teacher-curriculum This website has Curriculum Master Plans for writing, character education and environmental education. The writing plans include lessons and rubrics for assessment. Teachers can order free materials (posters and bookmarks) for the classroom.

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Advice

(These are advice quotes from “Advice From a Bison” www.yourtruenature.com)

- Stand your ground.
- Have a tough hide.
- Keep moving on.
- Cherish wide open spaces.
- Have a strong spirit.
- Roam wild and free.
- Let the chips fall where they may!

Attribute (Suggestions)

- (Stand your ground.) Bison are prey to humans, wolves, bears, coyotes and cougars. Bison do fight back.
- (Have a tough hide.) In the spring, bison scratch to remove their thick winter coats. The coat is thickest from hump to shoulder.
- (Keep moving on.) Bison can run 30-45 mph, jump 6 feet high and swim water that is over one-half mile wide.
- (Cherish wide open spaces.) Thousands of bison created the Buffalo Trace which measures 12-20 feet wide and extends east to west across southern Indiana.
- (Have a strong spirit.) Bison are not domesticated animals.
- (Roam wild and free.) Bison are known as “Thunder on the Plains” and “Faces the Wind.”
- (Let the chips fall where they may!) Buffalo chips (dried poop) were a primary fuel source used by Native Americans and pioneers. Other names are: prairie firewood, meadow muffins, buffalo pies or corral cookies.

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Name _____ Date _____

If A _____ Could Give Advice...

Attribute (suggestions)

Advice

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|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bison are prey to humans, wolves, bears, coyotes and cougars. Bison do fight back.• In the spring, bison scratch to remove their thick winter coats. The coat is thickest from hump to shoulder.• Bison can run 30-45 mph, jump 6 feet high and swim water that is over one-half mile wide.• Thousands of bison created the Buffalo Trace which measures 12-20 feet wide and extends east to west across southern Indiana.• Bison are not domesticated animals.• Bison are known as “Thunder on the Plains” and “Faces the Wind.”• Buffalo chips (dried poop) were a primary fuel source used by Native Americans and pioneers. Other names are: prairie firewood, meadow muffins, buffalo pies or corral cookies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stand your ground.• Have a tough hide.• Keep moving on.• Cherish wide open spaces.• Have a strong spirit.• Roam wild and free.• Let the chips fall where they may! |
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