

The Library of the More-Than-Humane

Workshop Instructions

Step 1: Selecting

Contemplate the ethical lives of creatures you know personally.

- Consider what you've learned from them.
- Consider what might be learned by other people.

Choose a creature whose lesson you want to share.

Tell the group your name, the name of the creature you've chosen, and how you got to know the creature.

Step 2: Writing

Write some words that evoke the creature and express an ethical principle that the creature can teach.

- Consider how you might describe the creature to people unfamiliar with the species.
- Consider situations in which you've encountered the creature.
- Consider scenarios that illustrate the creature's ethical life.
- Consider the form that best articulates what you want to express. (It might be a poem, a story, a play, an essay, a word cloud, etc.)

Read your writing to the group.

Step 3: Making

Fabricate a book (or book-like object) to contain your writing.

- Consider the form of the book in relation to your creature.
- Consider the structure of the book in relation to your principle.
- Consider the style of the book in relation to your writing.

Inscribe your words on the pages of your book.

Illustrate your writing.

- Consider making pictures with watercolors, pens, pencils, etc.
- Consider making collages with clippings from magazines, construction paper, fabric, natural materials, etc.
- Consider adding embellishment with paint, glitter, foil, etc.

Step 4: Sharing

- Show the book you created to the group by holding it up or passing it around.
- Talk about the reasons for the choices you made in the writing and design of your bestiary.
- Discuss how this principle might be applied in the world today in dialogue with others in your group.
- Optional: Capture each participant's presentation on video to share with other people.

Bestiaries of the More-Than-Humane is an initiative of the Library of the More-Than-Humane, administered by the University of Arizona. For more information, see <https://more-than-humane.org>.