

Court in the Act

Name _____

Graphic Organizer (before and during reading)

Plot	Setting	Main characters	Main characters: strengths and weaknesses
Problem	Complication	Other characters	Resolution

What the main characters learned

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🔍 Code Breaker

Find these words in the story, record their dictionary meaning and write a new sentence containing each word.

emphatically (page 6)

Dictionary meaning: _____

Sentence: _____

pompously (page 19)

Dictionary meaning: _____

Sentence: _____

gargoyle (page 21)

Dictionary meaning: _____

Sentence: _____

aviary (page 22)

Dictionary meaning: _____

Sentence: _____

determination (page 35)

Dictionary meaning: _____

Sentence: _____

intently (page 36)

Dictionary meaning: _____

Sentence: _____

vortex (page 42)

Dictionary meaning: _____

Sentence: _____

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☐ Meaning Maker

Think of three animals that you would like to learn more about. Write five interesting questions to ask each animal that humans do not already know answers to. Put an asterisk (*) next to the question you are most interested in learning the answer to. On the bottom line write why you are most interested in this question. The animals you choose could be pets or wild animals.

Animal: _____

*Why I am most interested in this response:

Animal: _____

*Why I am most interested in this response:

Animal: _____

*Why I am most interested in this response:

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🕒 Text User

List the most important points from each chapter.

The Signing Chimpanzee	Communication Breakdown	Cockatoo Conversation
A Close Encounter of the Cat Kind	A Different Perspective	Follow That Cat
Court of the Cat	Further Accusations	The Advocate

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● Text Critic

The author wrote this story to entertain you. But did Sally Odgers also hope to teach you something?

1. Why was it important that the characters cared about animals?

2. How would this story have been different if the main characters did not care about animals?

3. How did your feelings about how humans treat animals change as you read the story?

4. Do you think the author intended to make the reader feel this way? Explain.

5. Are there ways that you are like one of the main characters? Explain.

7. Were you surprised that Tatters came to support Nathaniel and Alia at the court? Why or why not?

8. How might the author want you to think about the animals we keep as pets?

9. Has this story inspired you to treat animals differently? Explain.

10. Which animals are most at risk of human interference? Explain.

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Multiple Intelligences
Naturalist

Choose three animals from the book and complete the table below.

Animal	Three interesting facts about this animal	Physical description	Sound this animal makes

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Fantasy

Write down all the elements of fantasy in the story. Use the book to help you.

How would this story have been different if the animals did not talk? Explain.

Why do you think this story was narrated by Matthias and not Nathaniel or Alia? Explain.

What other fantasy books/TV shows/films do you know?

Think of three people who might enjoy this story. Explain why.

What sorts of fiction texts do you prefer?

What is the best fiction text you have read or heard? Why?
