

*Fill in the gaps with the words from the box:*

takes centre stage   foraging   intimidating   subdue   outlet   staple   canine

### Reading to a dog



In a world where technology often 1) \_\_\_\_\_, the simple act of reading to a furry friend can have a profound impact on children. For many of them, reading in front of their peers or adults can be 2) \_\_\_\_\_. Dogs provides a non-judgmental and supportive audience for children. Dogs are patient listeners who offer unconditional love and acceptance, allowing kids to practise reading aloud without fear of criticism. This practice enhances their reading skills, fluency, and comprehension, potentially leading to improved academic

performance. Interacting with dogs has been proven to reduce stress and anxiety levels. Reading to dogs offers a therapeutic 3) \_\_\_\_\_ for children, helping them relax and unwind while engaging in a beloved activity. The presence of a friendly and supportive 4) \_\_\_\_\_ companion creates a calming and soothing environment. This positive association with reading nurtures a lifelong love for books and encourages children to become avid readers.

### Honey-hunting birds



5) \_\_\_\_\_ for wild honey is a tricky business. Bee nests are hard to find, and their inhabitants sting to defend themselves. But in a rare collaboration, honey hunters in Africa get help finding bees' nests from a small brown bird called the greater honeyguide. People use a specific sound – a loud trill – to attract birds and they lead the honey hunter to a nest, typically hidden in the branches or hollows of a tree, and then the honey hunter uses smoke or tools to 6) \_\_\_\_\_ the bees and scoop out the honey.

As a reward, the guide gets the beeswax, a 7) \_\_\_\_\_ of its diet. Collaborations like these between humans and wild animals are extremely rare, with only a few examples documented around the world. And those we know of are fast disappearing. Once widespread across the continent, honey hunting with honeyguides is now practiced by just a few ethnic groups in East Africa, particularly in rural areas of Mozambique, Tanzania, and Kenya.