

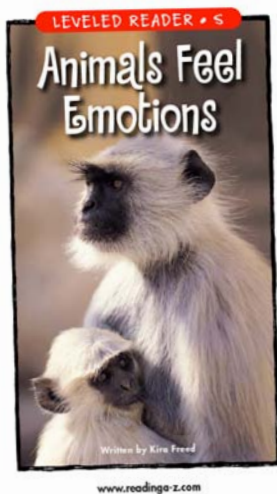
Meet a Reading a-z Author

Kira Freed Shares Love of Animals Through Books

Kira Freed first thought about being a writer when she was in graduate school. She had an assignment to write a psychology paper, which she wrote as a *Star Trek* episode. The assignment was so much fun that she started to think she would enjoy becoming a writer.

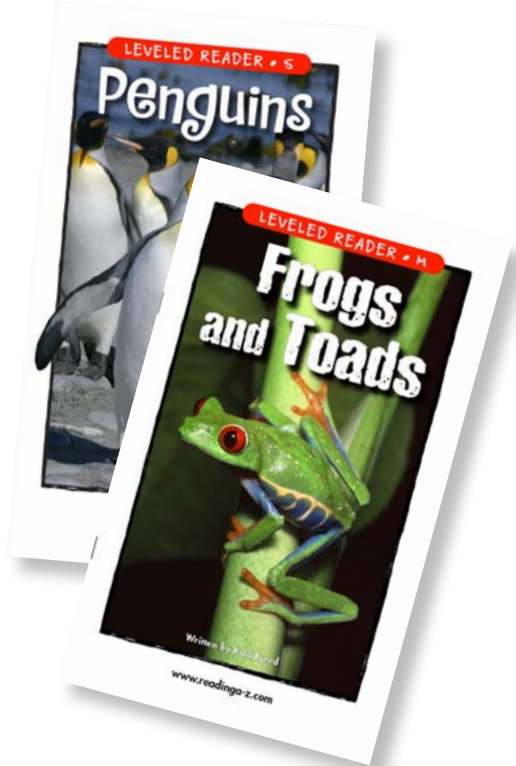
The following year, Kira went through a difficult time in her life when her father died. Writing every day helped her work through her sadness and taught her that writing can be a powerful tool for healing. *Losing Grandpa* is a fictionalized story of some of the healing Kira went through during that time.

Kira mainly writes about animals and the environment because she enjoys sharing her love and respect for the natural world with readers. She grew up in rural Ohio and learned from a young age to find comfort and inspiration in nature. She especially enjoys writing books such as *You're a Jellyfish!* and *You Stink!* because she likes to encourage readers to imagine life from the viewpoint of other living things. She hopes to motivate readers to help our planet achieve a better balance between human needs and the needs of other life forms. Kira also enjoys writing about other science topics as well as arts and crafts, music, history, wellness, and cultures around the world.



Kira encourages aspiring writers to pursue their interests and develop trust in their unique gifts and viewpoint. The seeds of people's dreams for their lives are usually present from a young age. If nourished, those seeds will sprout and grow.

Kira lives in Tucson, Arizona. She enjoys traveling, seeing wildlife, and taking long walks in nature. She has written more than one hundred books for educational publishers.



Collection of Author's Materials on Website Grows

Animal Coverings B
What Has This Tail? B
Legs, Wings, Fins, and Flippers H
Whose Tracks Are These? J
Frogs and Toads M
You Stink! M
Elephants N
You're a Jellyfish! O
Animals Feel Emotions S
Bears S
Bites and Stings S
Penguins S
Snakebite! S
Body Art X
Zoos Through the Ages Z
and more...

Name _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Have students read (or read aloud to students) the *Meet the Author* article about Kira Freed. After reading, discuss the kinds of books Kira writes. As a class determine the main idea of the article, and then have students pair up to write details to support the main idea.

Main Idea



Detail

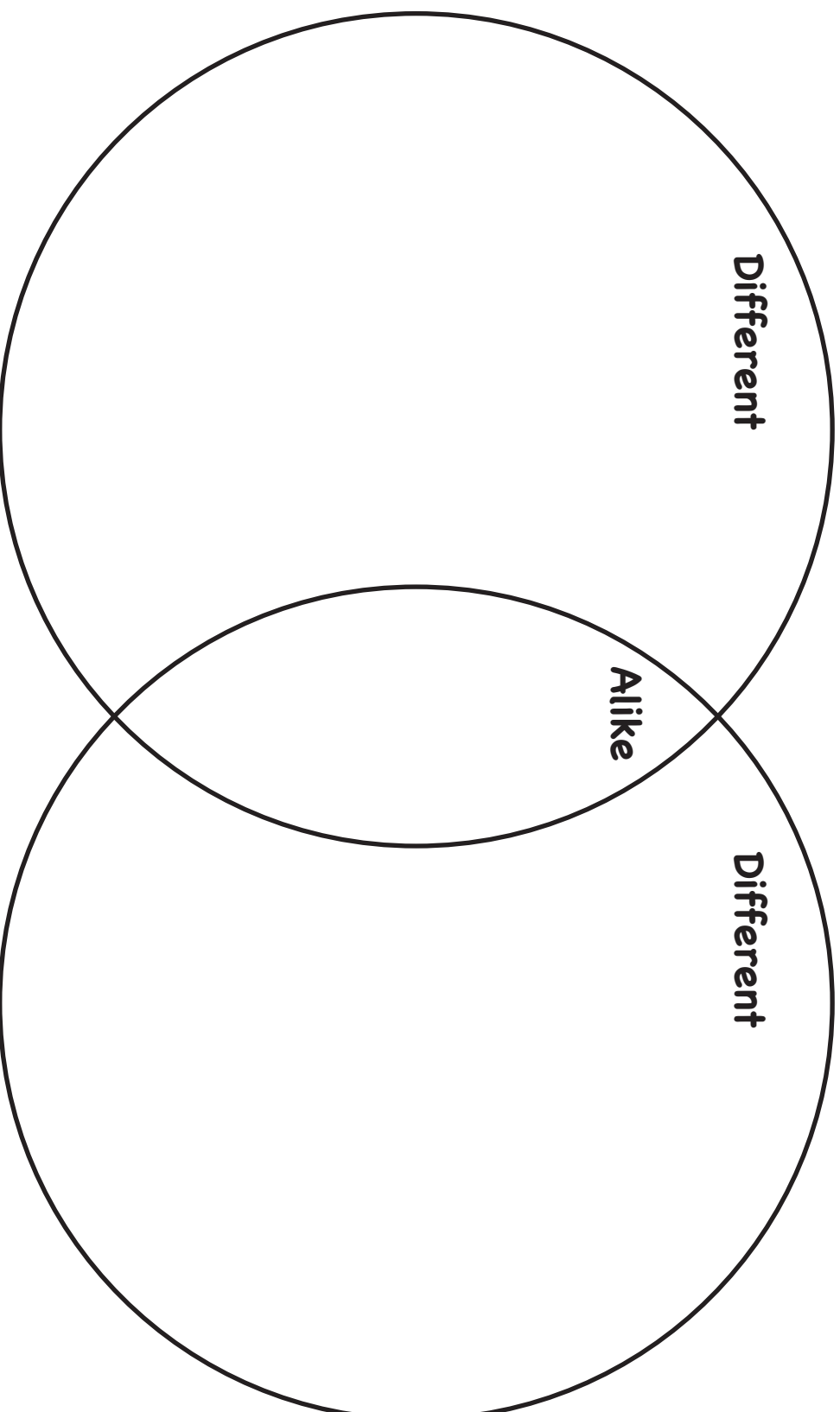


Detail

Name: _____

Topic: _____

Topic: _____



INSTRUCTIONS: Have students write the two topics being compared on the lines above. Then have them write details that tell how the topics are different in the outer circles. Have them write details that tell how the topics are alike where the circles overlap.

Name: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: In the first column, write what you already know about the topic. In the second column, write what you would like to know. After you finish reading, fill in the third column with what you learned.

<i>What I know</i>	<i>What I want to know</i>	<i>What I learned</i>

Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Read (or listen to) the *Meet the Author* article about Kira Freed and then answer the questions below.

1. What did her father's death teach Kira about writing?
 - (a) Writing can only be sad.
 - (b) Writing could help her heal.
 - (c) She did not like being a writer.
 - (d) all of the above

2. How does Kira show her love of animals?
 - (a) She has many pets.
 - (b) She enjoys traveling.
 - (c) She writes about animals.
 - (d) She plants seeds to grow flowers.

3. Which topics does Kira enjoy writing about?
 - (a) arts and crafts
 - (b) music and history
 - (c) wellness and world cultures
 - (d) all of the above

4. How might Kira act if she saw a dolphin up close?
 - (a) She might run away from it.
 - (b) She might try to take it home as a pet.
 - (c) She might imagine herself as a dolphin.
 - (d) She might ask the dolphin to be in a *Star Trek* episode.

5. Which statement about Kira is **not** true?
 - (a) She has written over one hundred books.
 - (b) She hopes to motivate readers to help the planet.
 - (c) She does not enjoy being a writer.
 - (d) She really enjoys the book she wrote titled *You're a Jellyfish!*

6. **Extended Response:** Explain which of Kira's books is most interesting to you.

Divide Kira’s stories into categories, and explain the characteristics of each category.



Classify

If you were to choose a topic to write about, which topic would it be and why?



Apply

What are some common themes in Kira’s books **not** about animals?



Compare and Contrast

Describe the events that led Kira to become a writer.



Elements of a Biography

What might happen if you met Kira walking on a nature trail near Tucson, Arizona?



Analyze Character

How could writing about an experience help you express your feelings about it?



Apply