

A note from the author



Problems are a problem. It's frustrating when things don't work out the way we'd hoped. And problems often leave us feeling scared, angry, worried or alone. Yet they are a normal part of life. Not just for you and me, but for every living creature on the planet. I wrote this book because I marvel at the creative ways in which animals tackle problems in their everyday lives. I want to encourage you to let nature spark your imagination when you're caught in a jam.

Every example in *Wild Ideas* comes from scientists who spend years studying how other animals think and feel. To learn how humpback whales use bubbles to catch fish, a scientist started by observing the way fish react to bubbles. When the critter cam (an underwater camera) was invented, he painlessly attached one to the forehead of a humpback and was treated to a whale's-eye view of how they work together to hunt with a bubble net.

We aren't the only ones who learn by watching others. Some squirrels figure out how to cross busy streets by watching people. And certain elephants in India have learned to open gates meant to keep them out by watching how farmers enter and exit.

So next time you feel stumped, try taking your troubles for a walk. A wild idea may be waiting just beyond your door!

Happy reading,
Elin

P.S. To see a beautiful video of whales blowing bubble nets—and to discover more about the science behind this book—visit:
www.owlkidsbooks.com/wildideas.