

# Literacy



## Persuasive Writing: Letter to a Poacher

Jo has been arrested near a wildlife reserve in Sulawesi, Indonesia. When they searched Jo's bag, wardens found wire snares and a hunting knife. Wardens recognise Jo, and know that the teenager lives with his parents in a local village.

Jo looks about fourteen years old, so he's at an important point in his life. Jo has mentioned that 'some men' offered him money for yaki - critically endangered Sulawesi crested black macaques, which we also have at the zoo – which they will sell for meat.

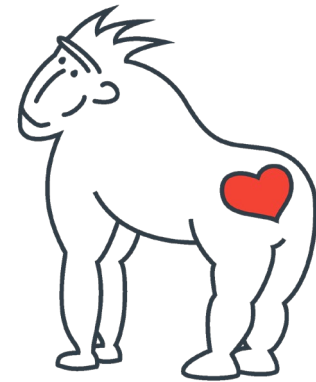
Can you write a letter to Jo, to persuade him that wildlife is worth saving?

### Parents Note

This ties in with an important aspect of conservation – community engagement. In the past, wildlife reserves have been set up by throwing local people out. This led to the locals resenting the reserves, whatever good work they were attempting. Now, conservation organisations try to work with local communities so that they will help to save the wildlife too.

Paignton Zoo supports an organisation called Selamatkan Yaki, which works with communities to save the local wildlife by:

- ◆ **Encouraging ecotourism**
- ◆ **Engaging communities and religious groups**
- ◆ **Working to provide sustainable livelihoods**
- ◆ **Encouraging pride in the yaki, as the area's special animal**



[www.selamatkanyaki.ngo](http://www.selamatkanyaki.ngo)

Another good example of such work is:

[www.dambari.com](http://www.dambari.com)



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