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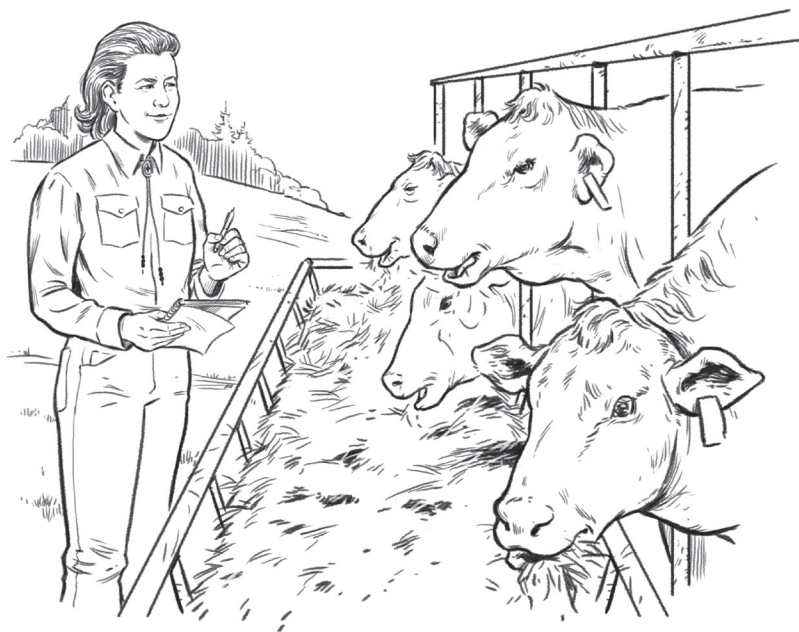


Who Is Temple Grandin?



by
Patricia Brennan Demuth

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illustrated by Robert Squier

Penguin Workshop

Cheers to Joyce and Jack and their beloved
grandsons Caden and Tate Naylor;
and in memory of my dad, an early
champion of Temple's designs—PBD

For the students, families, and staff
of The Birchtree Center—RS

PENGUIN WORKSHOP
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Who Is Temple Grandin?

“Weirdo.”

“Oddball.”

Once again, the kids were tossing insults at Temple Grandin in the hallway of junior high school.

They picked on Temple because she didn't act like everybody else. She spoke in a loud, flat voice. She repeated sentences over and over, word for word. She clapped her hands over her ears at the sound of the school bell. She acted lost and afraid in the crowded school hall.

Kids couldn't understand what made Temple tick. And Temple couldn't understand them, either. That was because Temple's brain worked differently from theirs. She had been born with a developmental disorder known as autism

(say: AW-tiz-im). It showed up when she was a baby, making her behave in odd ways.

On this day, Temple's temper boiled over at the bullying. She hurled a book at a kid. Hours later, the principal expelled her from school. Probably no one was too surprised. Temple was flunking nearly all her subjects. They just didn't interest her.

Everyone back in 1961 would have been amazed to know that Temple would grow up to become a world-famous animal scientist. All through her career she has worked to improve the treatment of cows and other animals that are raised for food.

Every year, millions and millions of cattle are killed for beef. Until Temple came along, people thought of cattle as products to turn into hamburgers and steaks. But Temple paid attention to the fear and pain cattle felt at large meat plants.

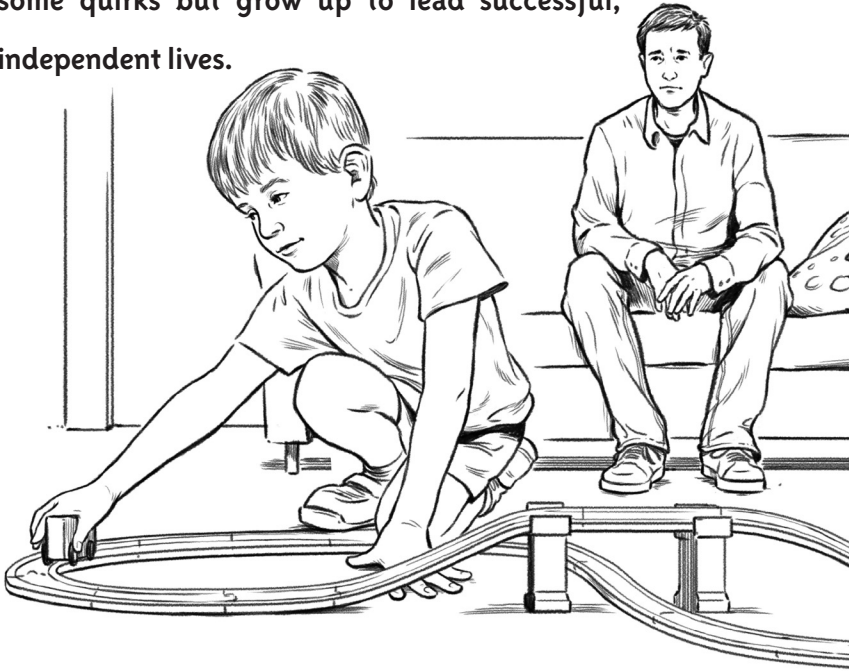
As an autistic person, Temple often felt like

a scared animal herself. Loud noises, unfamiliar objects, sudden movements—any of those might frighten her at any minute. Her fears helped Temple tune in to the way animals feel.



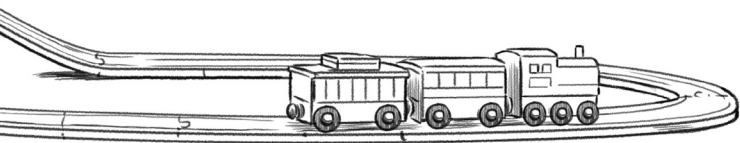
What Is It Like to Have Autism?

Autism is a disorder that affects the way a person behaves. The disorder affects people in a wide range of ways. On one end are children who never learn to speak and are locked inside their own world. At the other end are children who have some quirks but grow up to lead successful, independent lives.



Many children with autism

- have a hard time understanding other people's feelings
- have trouble with speech
- often repeat words and certain actions again and again
- are highly sensitive to loud noises, bright lights, strong smells, and rough fabrics
- are very good at some things and very poor at others
- tend to “space out” and block out the outside world
- become obsessed with certain interests and projects (for example, trains or computers)
- dislike change to their routine



Little by little, she changed the meat industry. Thanks to Temple, people began to realize that cattle are creatures with feelings that deserve a good life to the end.

Does autism make Temple more aware of animals' feelings? Temple thinks so. It makes her accept herself just the way she is. She has said many times, "If I could snap my fingers and be non-autistic, I would not. Autism is part of who I am."