

Lucy

An Experiment



Dr. Roger Fouts teaches Lucy American Sign Language.

Lucy was just two days old when she was taken from her birth mother, wrapped in a baby blanket and placed in a bassinet. She was carried onto a plane and flown from Tarpon Springs, Florida, to Norman, Oklahoma. There she joined the family of Jane and Maurice K. Temerlin and their 11-year-old son, Steve. Adoptions were not uncommon in 1964, but this one was different. That's because little Lucy Temerlin was an ape.

2 In scientific evolutionary terms, apes are considered the closest species to humans. Scientific studies have shown that apes and humans share at least 96 percent of the same DNA. Maurice Temerlin was a behavioral scientist who wanted to test the theory that nature is stronger than nurture. In other words, he wanted to know if our behavior is controlled by what we are—our species—or by how we live and our surroundings. Temerlin believed the only way to find out was to raise Lucy not as a pet, but as a *human* member of their family. The results would benefit the research at the University of Oklahoma's Institute for Primate Studies, where Temerlin was associated. In his excitement to conduct this experiment, Temerlin was focused on how much science would gain. Probably no one thought to ask how much Lucy had to lose.

3 Lucy was born into a colony of carnival chimpanzees and spent her first two days of life surrounded by other chimps. But from the moment her owner sold her to the Institute for Primate Studies, she lived exclusively in the company of humans. Jane

and Maurice Temerlin fed Lucy with a baby bottle, dressed her in diapers and baby clothes, and laid her down each night in a crib in their bedroom. As Lucy grew, they fed her in a high chair and then taught her to eat at the table using a fork, knife, and spoon. When she got too big for her crib, they let her sleep in their bed with them. Lucy was taught to communicate in American Sign Language, in which she learned 140 signs. When the Temerlins took her to the doctor for check-ups, they went to a pediatrician rather than a veterinarian, and they also made sure Lucy received vaccinations for childhood diseases just as human children would. In short, the couple did all that they could to filter the animal out of the ape.

4 From the Temerlins' point of view, the experiment proceeded beautifully for several years. Lucy played with human toys, ate three scheduled meals a day, and learned to use a variety of tools, such as a screwdriver, a vacuum cleaner, and locks. She spent half the day studying sign language. The rest of the day was spent doing as she pleased—flipping through magazines, watching television, playing with her pet kitten, or going fishing with Maurice Temerlin. Reporters who visited the home were often greeted at the door by Lucy, who then would hurry into the kitchen and make tea for the guests.

5 By the time Lucy was 10, the situation had begun to change. Lucy became harder to manage. Full-grown chimps are not bigger than humans, but they are about five

times as strong. When Lucy became angry, she did more than throw a tantrum—she turned into a destructive menace. In addition, Lucy was increasingly interested in finding a mate. Since her only contact was with humans, she started to show physical attraction toward human males, particularly toward Maurice Temerlin. For the next couple of years, Lucy became harder and harder to control, careening around the house, breaking things, and occasionally even biting people. In the words of one reporter, she was "tearing the house to shreds." The Temerlins blocked off part of their living quarters and put Lucy in a padded room with bars so she couldn't



In this family photo, Jane Temerlin and her "child" spend some quality time.

get out. But by 1977, when Lucy was 12, the Temerlins decided they had had enough. As Maurice Temerlin explained it, he and his wife wanted to "live normal lives now."

6 Getting Lucy out of their lives may have been a good thing for Jane and Maurice Temerlin, but it was the worst thing that could happen for Lucy. She knew no life other than the one she had with them. The Temerlins decided not to put her in a private colony like the one she had been born into because they thought it would be too limiting for her. They also rejected research labs and zoos as being too sterile and boring. Instead, they decided to turn her loose in the wild. They chose a chimpanzee sanctuary in Gambia, Africa, where chimps that had been kept in zoos, circuses, or private homes could be set free. Before the Temerlins flew Lucy to Gambia to release her, they hired a graduate student in psychology named Janis Carter to come with them. The Temerlins stayed in Gambia only a short time, and then they left Carter there to help Lucy get used to living free in the wild.

7 For the first time ever in her life, Lucy had to look out for herself. Instead of having her own room and a closet full of clothes, Lucy was surrounded by trees. Instead of eating casseroles and sipping lemonade, she was expected to forage for

leaves and drink from a stream. It was too much for her all at once, and she refused. She would not climb trees, build a nest, or interact with the other chimps. She often sat dejectedly, pulling out her hair, and signing to Carter the same message: "Lucy's hurt."

8 Carter had intended to stay only two weeks after the Temerlins left, but Lucy was obviously so confused that Carter couldn't bear to leave. She actually stayed with Lucy for several years, working to get her to become less human and more like an ape. Carter demonstrated to Lucy which foods she should eat and how to find them. She communicated with Lucy only through ape-like vocal sounds, not through sign language. Finally, Carter's work began to pay off. Lucy showed signs of adapting to her natural habitat, and Carter believed Lucy could learn to live by herself.

9 After nearly eight years, Carter left the chimpanzee sanctuary, staying away a full six months before checking on Lucy again. When Carter did return, she brought Lucy's mirror and several other things that had been part of Lucy's life with the Temerlins. Lucy welcomed Carter and played briefly with the items, then turned and rejoined the other chimps. Carter rejoiced in this hopeful sign that Lucy had successfully integrated into ape society.

10 Unfortunately, this triumph was short lived. Less than a year later, Lucy's lifeless body was found in the open with her hands and feet missing. Although no one is certain what happened, Carter thinks that poachers had entered the sanctuary and Lucy, who had long ago learned to trust humans, had walked up to greet them. Carter guessed that they had taken Lucy's hands and feet as trophies from their hunt. It was a tragic end for a creature whose life was sacrificed to the vision of well-meaning but single-minded researchers who only wanted to learn why we humans behave as we do. *

If you have been timed while reading this article, enter your reading time below.

Then turn to the Words-per-Minute Table on page 101 and look up your reading speed (words per minute). Enter your reading speed on the graph on page 102.

Reading Time: Lesson 8

_____ : _____

Minutes

Seconds

A Finding the Main Idea

One statement below expresses the main idea of the article. One statement is too general, or too broad. The other statement explains only part of the article; it is too narrow. Label the statements using the following key:

M—Main Idea B—Too Broad N—Too Narrow

- _____ 1. Chimps and humans are actually quite similar in many ways.
- _____ 2. Jane and Maurice Temerlin put their chimp Lucy in a chimpanzee sanctuary in Gambia, where they hoped she would adapt to living in the wild.
- _____ 3. Jane and Maurice Temerlin raised a chimp they called Lucy as a human for 12 years to see whether nature or nurture controls behavior.

_____ Score 15 points for a correct M answer.

_____ Score 5 points for each correct B or N answer.

_____ **Total Score: Finding the Main Idea**

B Recalling Facts

How well do you remember the facts in the article? Put an X in the box next to the answer that correctly completes each statement about the article.

- 1. Maurice Temerlin was a
 - a. behavioral scientist.
 - b. zoo keeper.
 - c. high school teacher.
- 2. The Temerlins taught Lucy to communicate in
 - a. ape grunts.
 - b. very simple English.
 - c. American Sign Language.
- 3. The Temerlins eventually had to put Lucy in a
 - a. padded room with bars.
 - b. cage in the basement.
 - c. backyard house.
- 4. Janis Carter stayed on to help Lucy for
 - a. about six months.
 - b. exactly one year.
 - c. almost eight years.
- 5. Carter believes that Lucy was killed by
 - a. other apes who were jealous of her.
 - b. poachers hunting on the chimpanzee sanctuary.
 - c. the owners of the chimpanzee sanctuary.

Score 5 points for each correct answer.

_____ **Total Score: Recalling Facts**

C Making Inferences

When you combine your own experiences and information from a text to draw a conclusion that is not directly stated in that text, you are making an inference. Below are five statements that may or may not be inferences based on information in the article. Label the statements using the following key:

C—Correct Inference

F—Faulty Inference

- _____ 1. The Temerlins likely were strong supporters of animal rights.
- _____ 2. Janis Carter did not realize at first how involved she would become with Lucy.
- _____ 3. Lucy probably would have been happier if she had been raised with other chimps.
- _____ 4. The Temerlins treated Lucy well while she was living in their home.
- _____ 5. Lucy was more intelligent than most chimps.

Score 5 points for each correct answer.

_____ Total Score: Making Inferences

D Using Words Precisely

Each numbered sentence below contains an underlined word or phrase from the article. Following the sentence are three definitions. One definition is closest to the meaning of the underlined word. One definition is opposite or nearly opposite. Label those two definitions using the following key. Do not label the remaining definition.

C—Closest

O—Opposite or Nearly Opposite

- _____ 1. But from the moment her owner sold her to the Institute for Primate Studies, she lived exclusively in the company of humans.
 - _____ a. privately
 - _____ b. entirely
 - _____ c. partially
- _____ 2. For the next couple of years, Lucy became harder and harder to control, careening around the house, breaking things, occasionally even biting people.
 - _____ a. rushing carelessly
 - _____ b. living alone
 - _____ c. moving slowly and carefully
- _____ 3. They also rejected research labs and zoos as being too sterile and boring.
 - _____ a. exciting and lively
 - _____ b. lacking variety or creativity
 - _____ c. unfamiliar
- _____ 4. She refused to eat, climb trees, build a nest, or interact with the other chimps.
 - _____ a. join with socially
 - _____ b. recognize
 - _____ c. keep away from

5. Carter rejoiced in this hopeful sign that Lucy had successfully integrated into ape society.

- ___ a. learned about
___ b. separated from
___ c. become a part of

___ Score 3 points for each correct C answer.

___ Score 2 points for each correct O answer.

___ **Total Score: Using Words Precisely**

Author's Approach

Put an X in the box next to the correct answer.

- How is the author's purpose for writing the article expressed in paragraph 2?
 - a. This paragraph states that humans and chimps share at least 96 percent of the same DNA.
 - b. This paragraph states that Maurice Temerlin wanted to conduct a long-term experiment.
 - c. This paragraph points out that the Temerlins did not think about what would be best for Lucy.
- The author tells this story mainly by
 - a. comparing different topics.
 - b. using their imagination or creativity.
 - c. describing events in the order they happened.
- Which of the following statements from the article best describes why the Temerlins decided to release Lucy to a chimpanzee sanctuary?
 - a. "For the next couple of years, Lucy became harder and harder to control, careening around the house, breaking things, occasionally even biting people."
 - b. "Getting Lucy out of their lives may have been a good thing for Jane and Maurice Temerlin, but it was the worst thing that could happen for Lucy."
 - c. "Jane and Maurice Temerlin fed Lucy with a baby bottle, dressed her in diapers and baby clothes, and laid her down each night in a crib in their bedroom."

Enter the four total scores in the spaces below, and add them together to find your Reading Comprehension Score. Then record your score on the graph on page 103.

Score	Question Type	Lesson 8
___	Finding the Main Idea	
___	Recalling Facts	
___	Making Inferences	
___	Using Words Precisely	
___	Reading Comprehension Score	

___ Number of correct answers

Record your personal assessment of your work on the Critical Thinking Chart on page 104.

Summarizing and Paraphrasing

Put an X in the box next to the correct answer.

- Choose the best one-sentence paraphrase for the following sentence from the article: "Carter had intended to stay only two weeks after the Temerlins left, but Lucy was obviously so confused that Carter couldn't bear to leave."
 - a. The Temerlins left after only two weeks, but Carter stayed on because she saw that Lucy was confused.
 - b. Although she had planned on leaving only two weeks after the Temerlins, Carter decided to stay after seeing how confused Lucy was.
 - c. Carter stayed with Lucy for two weeks after the Temerlins left because she saw that the chimp was unbearably confused.
- Below are summaries of the article. Choose the summary that says all the most important things about the article but in the fewest words.
 - a. The Temerlin family raised a chimp as a human to see what makes us who we are—our species or how we are treated. Years later, when the chimp became hard to manage, they released her in Africa. She was killed, probably by poachers she had trusted.
 - b. Maurice Temerlin wondered whether it is our species or how we are treated that makes us who we are. His family took in a baby chimp and raised it as a human for 12 years. Then they released her, and she was killed.
 - c. Maurice and Jane Temerlin raised a chimp as a human. By the time she was 12 years old, she became hard to handle, so they released her into the wild.

_____ Number of correct answers

Record your personal assessment of your work on the Critical Thinking Chart on page 104.

Critical Thinking

Put an X in the box next to the correct answer for questions 1, 3, and 4. Follow the directions provided for question 2.

- Which of the following statements from the article is an opinion rather than a fact?
 - a. "Full-grown chimps are not bigger than humans, but they are about five times as strong."
 - b. "In short, the Temerlins did all that they could to filter the animal out of the ape."
 - c. "For the first time ever in her life, Lucy had to look out for herself."
- Choose from the letters below to correctly complete the following statement. Write the letter on the lines.
On the positive side, _____, but on the negative side _____.
 - a. Lucy had a very difficult time fitting in with other apes in the wild because of the experiment
 - b. the experiment successfully proved that a chimp could learn many of the skills that a human child learns
 - c. as part of the experiment, Lucy was cared for by a pediatrician, not a veterinarian
- What was the effect of Lucy's release into the wild?
 - a. She became sad and refused to care for herself or socialize.
 - b. She became angry and lashed out at Carter.
 - c. She was relieved at being given her freedom.