



The Story of Journey

Use the guide on the next page to write an essay based on this true story!

In 2009, a male gray wolf was born into a pack in northeastern Oregon who would come to be known as Journey. He would grow up to make history as the first wolf to travel into California since 1924, an important step for wolf conservation. Conservation means to protect something in nature. Especially for endangered species, like wolves, conservation requires the teamwork of biologists, concerned citizens and decision-makers. Biologists in Oregon track the wolf population by putting an electronic tag, or special collar, on certain wolves so they can follow them. They put one of these collars on Journey. Because he was the seventh wolf they tracked in Oregon, the biologists called him OR-7.

After Journey left his pack in September of 2011, he wandered for more than 1,000 miles through Oregon and down into Northern California. While it is normal for wolves to travel alone for many miles, known as *dispersal*, biologists say the average wolf will travel 40 to 70 miles. It turns out Journey was no average wolf!

The reason for Journey's incredible trek cannot be known for certain, though many wolves travel in order to find a mate. Somewhere along the way, Journey did find his mate, and returned to Oregon with her in 2014 to start their own pack. Scientists named the two adult wolves and their offspring the "Rogue Pack". They were the first *documented* wolf pack in western Oregon.

The batteries in Journey's tracking collar finally expired in October 2015, but he was sighted by a trail camera in Siskiyou National Forest in Oregon with one of his offspring in February of 2016.

Journey, called "the most famous wolf in the world", has educated people about the *plight* of wolves. Scientists estimate there were once some 2 million wolves *roaming* North America, but by the 1960s human settlement and *bounties* left the population all but extinct. Protection from the Endangered Species Act has allowed the species to *rebound*, and today scientists predict there are about 5,500 of these animals in the wild in the United States.

Wolves still occupy only about 10 percent of their historic *range*, and conservationists are still hard at work to protect wolves like Journey in the wild.

Vocabulary

Documented: Recorded an event in writing or in other forms.

Plight: Hard times.

Roaming: Moving around.

Bounties: Money paid to kill an animal.

Rebound: Come back.

Range: A large area of open land.

Dispersal: Traveling to a new area.

Use these three pages to write a 5-paragraph essay that answers the question: "Why is Journey's story important?" Be sure to use at least two words from the vocabulary box.

Remember, an essay includes:

- An introduction - 1 paragraph
- A body - 3 paragraphs
- A conclusion - 1 paragraph

The introduction should include a topic sentence that answers the question, along with three points that explain the topic sentence. Your essay body will include three paragraphs that explain the three supporting points you made in your introduction. Be sure to use specific examples from the text. Your conclusion should summarize your topic in a new way.
