Animals in Translation
By Temple Grandin

Animals in Translation
Using the Mysteries of Autism to Decode Animal Behavior

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author of Thinking in Pictures

Presentation by Courtney Branscomb
About Temple

- Bach at age 2
- “Tape Recorder”
- New High School with Horse Stable
- Squeeze Chute
Temple’s Job

- Makes sure all food animals are given humane slaughter
- Finds distractions in food yards
- Invented Center-Track Restraining System
Visual Thinking

- No words, just pictures
- Animals think this way.
- See details, instead of whole objects
- No inattentinal blindness
- Small or low-functioning frontal lobes
Autistics vs. Animals

“Autism made school and social life hard, but it made animals easy.”

Simple Emotions = “innocent”

Long, Unforgotten Memories

Savants

Narrow, Specific Generalizations
Temple’s Experiences

- Sound Sensitivities
- Running Commentary
- No Repression
- Deep Pressure
- Touch
Temple’s Experiences

- Fixations
- Insensitivity to Pain
- Asking Questions
- No Meaning in Words
- Extreme Perception
- Fragmented Sensory Systems
How do autistic people experience the world?

“Autistic people are experiencing the world much more directly and accurately than normal people, with all their inattentional blindness and their change blindness and their every-other-kind-of-blindness.”