

Those Poor Pigeons!



With a partner, read and discuss the three questions below:

- Make a list of animals or plants that humans have **bred**. What traits do they have that make them valuable to humans?
- Erica thinks her father running over pigeons is an example of natural **selection**. Shawnte thinks it's an example of artificial **selection**. In what way does this example of **selection** seem natural, artificial, or both to you? Why?
- Do you think that Erica's father's argument that he was helping nature by killing some pigeons makes sense?



Refer back to the Reader's Theater to answer the following questions:

- List the evidence that caused Erica to conclude that her father ran over some pigeons.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- Dog **breeding** is not natural **selection** because:

- a) the effect is not permanent.
- b) humans are selecting who **reproduces**.
- c) certain traits are passed on to the next generation.
- d) nature plays a larger role than humans.

- Will and Shawnte pointed out that there are more traits than “being strong” that might help an animal or plant to **survive**. Restate one of their examples and then propose some more.
