

"The Dogs Could Teach Me" Checklist

- ___ Build background and connect with the story by journaling.
- ___ Develop new vocabulary by answering questions and writing sentences
- ___ Apply a new comma rule by punctuating, editing, and writing
- ___ Analyze point of view/author's perspective by completing worksheet on and discussing "Dogs Deserve Their Day"
- ___ Comprehend the story by reading and answering comprehension questions
- ___ Analyze point of view/author's perspective by completing two worksheets on and discussing "The Dogs Could Teach Me"
- ___ Apply vocabulary, comma rule, comprehension, and knowledge of perspective/point of view by taking a test.

Background and Connection

Rate the following statements using this scale:

Disagree 0 1 2 3 4 Agree

Also, give a reason for your opinion.

1. Animals know things that people don't.

2. Animals have a sense of humor.

3. Animals can teach us.



4. People are much smarter than animals.

Vocabulary
(in spiral notebooks)

Turn to page 277. Flip through the story and read the 5 "**Words to Own**". Answer the following questions on your word, based on your understanding of the definition.

- 1.) If you are *mystified* by an animal's behavior, do you understand why the animal acts the way it does? Explain.
- 2.) Would landing on a torn knee *alleviate* the pain of the wound? Explain.
- 3.) Is a dog's owner in *contention* with their dog when they chew up a brand new pair of shoes? Explain.
- 4.) Would a person feel *exaltation* if they fell off the edge of a small cliff? Explain.
- 5.) Would you feel *chagrin* if an animal made you look silly by playing a trick on you? Explain.



Use your word in a sentence that provides context clues, so that the reader is clear on the words meaning. Share with your group members.

Example: welling: It has rained so much that the water was welling over the riverbanks.

Comma Rule

We use commas to separate adjectives--sometimes.



brave lead dog

intelligent, loyal dog

1.) Does the statement still make sense when you place *and* between the adjectives?

brave and lead dog--**no** (no comma)

intelligent and loyal dog--**yes** (separate using comma)

2.) Does the statement keep its meaning if you change the order of the adjectives?

lead brave dog--**no** (no comma)

loyal, intelligent dog--**yes** (separate using comma)

Complete the worksheet following these rules.

Point of View and Perspective

Read "Dogs Deserve Their Day".

As you read choose a sentence or a few sentences that are meaningful to you, and that you think are meaningful to the story.

When finished, fill out Part I and Part II of "Describing a Writer's Perspective". Read the questions carefully:)

Discussion Model

MiniRead Dogs Deserve Their Day TRANSPARENCY 32
SKILL DESCRIBING A WRITER'S PERSPECTIVE | STRATEGY SAVE THE LAST WORD FOR ME

Model

My Favorite Passage:

"I can't believe it!" Daniel exclaimed. "That's exactly why I was coming over to see *you*. Tuffy's been depressed ever since Louis has had to stay indoors. So I thought that maybe if Tuffy could see Louis for a while, he'd perk up."

"I'll try anything to get that cat back to his old self," Mr. Houston said, rising out of the chair. He opened his front door. "C'mon Louis, old boy," he called. "Time to come outside."

My Comments About the Passage:

I thought this passage was the most interesting or important because ...

Both Daniel and Mr. Houston finally realize that they were wrong to be against each other's pets.

This passage shows that the writer thinks ...

The writer thinks that Daniel's love for his dog makes Daniel treat cats unfairly, and Mr. Houston's love for his cat makes Mr. Houston treat dogs unfairly. I think the writer wants us to see that there are two sides to every story, and if we show bias in one direction or another, we may be missing some important information.

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Discussion Sentence Starters

- "I like this passage because..."
- "I don't like this passage because..."
- "This passage reminds me of..."
- "This passage makes me feel..."

MiniRead NAME _____ | CLASS _____ | DATE _____

Dogs Deserve Their Day

BLACKLINE MASTER

SKILL DESCRIBING A WRITER'S PERSPECTIVE | STRATEGY SAVE THE LAST WORD FOR ME

Part 1. Directions: After reading the MiniRead "Dogs Deserve Their Day," choose a passage that you think is meaningful or significant and copy it on the lines provided or on the back of this sheet.

“ Copy sentence.
1-5
sentence ”

Part 2. Directions: On the lines provided, answer the following questions. Continue your answers on the back of this sheet if necessary.

- I thought this passage was the most interesting or important because
about your sentence
- When I read this part, I thought
- This passage shows that the writer thinks

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Let's Read

"The Dogs Could Teach Me" on Page 277

As we read, be looking for a passage/group of sentences that is important to you and the overall story. You will be discussing your choice after the story.



1. Page 278. What change does Paulsen say the dogs made in his life. What did Columbia do to make him change?
2. Page 278. What does the author want to reader to understand from this description of Olaf?
3. Page 279. Why does Columbia play this trick with the bone on Olaf? How do you know?
4. Page 279. Paraphrase the last three paragraphs.
5. Page 280. Why doesn't Paulsen notice anything during the accident?
6. Page 281. What thought process must Obeah, the lead dog, hve gone through to get back to Paulsen?

Read the section you believe is most important to the overll story to your group members. Then discuss WHY you thought it was important.



Each group member should take 2-3 minutes.

Closure

In 2 to 3 sentences, explain why it is important to understand a writer's perspective or point of view. How is this a handy skill in our daily lives?

Point of View

Now that we have finished the story and discussed, fill out the back of your "Describing a Writer's Perspective".

Please be sure to read the directions carefully.

Test

Combine and apply all of your learning that you did while we read "The Dogs Could Teach Me".

You may use your worksheets, spiral notebooks, and books for this test.

1-9: Comprehension

10-14: Vocabulary

15-19: Commas

20: Point of View and Perspective

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