



HOW DOGS HELP KIDS

Read and Succeed in the Classroom

Overview of Program Lessons: Part One

Lesson 1: “Reading is Harder for Dogs Than It Is for Kids!”

Literacy Focus: Word Study Strategies

Content Focus: Introduction to the Program/How to Meet a New Dog Safely

Featured Book: *May I Pet Your Dog* by Stephanie Calmenson

Lesson Overview:

In this first lesson, children meet their plush dogs for the very first time, and practice the new skill of how to meet a new dog which they learn through this week’s featured book. The children choose a name and create a dog tag and collar for their new plush reading buddies. Then, using their Word Study Strategies bookmarks, the students learn strategies for how to tackle Tricky Trouble Words when they are reading aloud and independently, and learn how to use their Tricky Trouble Words Doggy Bags. Finally, students begin to create their very own I’m Doggone Brilliant! poster boards.

Lesson 2: “Learning to Talk Dog!”

Literacy Focus: Review of Word Study Strategies

Content Focus: What We Should and Shouldn’t Do Around Dogs to Stay Safe

Featured Text: Tails Wagging and Tails Tucked Interactive Reading Activity

Lesson Overview: In this lesson, children learn some basic similarities between children and dogs, and learn behaviors that are OK and not OK around dogs through an interactive reading game called “Tails Wagging and Tails Tucked.” Students also learn to set a goal and how to chart their reading progress, and are introduced to BoneWork (and are given their BoneWork envelopes and their very first BoneWork assignment). The focus of this week’s BoneWork for children and their parents at home (with the ongoing support of their pets and/or a stuffed animal) is to practice these Word Study strategies when they come across Tricky Trouble Words during their evening reading, and to place these words into their Tricky Trouble Words Doggy Bags.

In this lesson, children are also introduced to the Reading Rewards Chart and to the Help Get Our Dogs Home Safely game.

Lesson 3: Does My Dog Really Get It?

Literacy Focus: Reading Comprehension/Picture Walks

Content Focus: Infusing Imagination into Story

Featured Book: *Stanley’s Party* by Linda Bailey

Lesson Overview: In this lesson, children learn to help their audience understand the story by answering questions as they read. Students summarize the story, using a picture walk, which recounts an event in their own words, includes details, reflects a logical sequence, and provides a conclusion. Children and their parents participate in a weekly BoneWork challenge that reinforces this week’s reading focus: using picture walks to help strengthen comprehension when reading.

Students also learn a love pledge to say to their dogs, and transfer their newly mastered Tricky Trouble Words onto their I'm Doggone Brilliant! boards. Finally, children play the Help Get Our Dogs Home Safely board game for the first time after earning Golden Bones for completing their BoneWork challenges.

Lesson 4: Walter is Just Like My Dog!

Literacy Focus: Reading Comprehension/Making Connections and Activating Background Knowledge

Content Focus: Infusing Fun into Reading/The Playful Nature of Dogs

Featured Book: *Walter the Farting Dog*

Lesson Overview: In this lesson, children are encouraged to activate background knowledge to aid in comprehension when reading fictional text by imagining that their (stuffed or real) dog has entered the story at four different points. Students ask questions and tell stories to enhance the experience of reading and to support comprehension, such as, "What would MY dog think of this?" or "What would my dog do if this happened to him or her?" or "This reminds me of when...." Children and their parents also participate in a weekly BoneWork challenge that reinforces this week's reading strategy.

Children continue to transfer newly mastered Tricky Trouble Words onto their I'm Doggone Brilliant! boards, earn Golden Bones for completed BoneWork, and play the Help Get Our Dogs Home Safely class board game.

Lesson 5: Dogs are Amazing Listeners

Literacy Focus: Reading with Intonation and Fluency

Content Focus: Reading a Dog's Body Language/Non-Verbal Communication

Featured Book: *Max Talks to Me* by Claire Buchwald

Lesson Overview: In this lesson, children learn that reading aloud with intonation, fluency, and accuracy helps their listener to understand the story and keeps the interest of their audience. Through an interactive activity and entertaining negative examples, students give and are given immediate feedback about their use of expression, appropriate speed and volume, and appropriate punctuation use when reading aloud. Children and their parents participate in a weekly BoneWork challenge that reinforces this week's focus on reading fluency.

Through an interactive game, "Four Corners," students also learn to recognize how a dog is feeling by reading his body language. Children learn that dogs communicate and respond to oral language not with words, but through their body language and actions.

Lesson 6: "Follow Your Nose and Open Your Heart"

Literacy Focus: Asking and Answering Questions (Who, What, Where, When, Why, How) when Reading

Content Focus: Developing Empathy and Compassion for Shelter Dogs

Featured Book: *Before You Were Mine* by Maribeth Boelts

Lesson Overview: Children participate in a collaborative group activity to ask and answer questions about *who, what, were, when, why, and how* to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text. Students are encouraged to ask questions throughout the lesson in order to clarify comprehension, to

gather additional information, and to deepen understanding of the experiences of dogs who have lived in an animal shelter. As in previous lessons, children and their parents participate in a weekly BoneWork challenge that reinforces this week's reading strategy.

Lesson 7: Discover the Super Hero in Your Dog

Literacy Focus: Writing Your Super Hero Dog Into Reality

Content Focus: Imagining Our Dogs As Super Heroes

Featured Book: *Dex: The Heart of a Hero* by Caralyn Buehner

Lesson Overview: Students will incorporate what they learned about the "Five W's" from Lesson 6 to craft an informative text and illustration about their own dog super hero character. After an engaging discussion about children's favorite super heroes and their special powers, students will be invited to consider what kind of a super power their plush (or real) dog might have if they were super heroes themselves. Following three and four-step oral directions, students write about and then create an illustration of their very own super hero dog!

In the book, *Dex, The Heart of a Hero*, students learn that Dex's special super power is his huge heart for helping others. Therefore, as part of this week's BoneWork challenge, we ask students to write about and plan five ways they can show love and appreciation for animals in their lives.

Lesson 8: "How Dogs and Kids Can Help Each Other"

Literacy Focus: Reading Informational Text/Describe How Characters in a Story Respond to Challenges

Content Focus: Empowering Kids to Make a Difference in Their Communities

Featured Book: *Maggie's Second Chance: A Gentle Dog's Rescue*

Lesson Overview: In this lesson, through an interactive group and/or independent activity, children are asked to consider and describe how characters in a story (*Maggie's Second Chance*) respond to challenges. As a real example, the students are introduced to one class of students who chose to lobby for and eventually raise money to build their own animal shelter in their home town. Finally, the students use and demonstrate understanding of various text features to locate key facts and information, using an informational text about service dogs for kids. Children and their parents participate in a weekly BoneWork challenge that reinforces this week's reading focus on informational text.

Lesson 9: "Achieve a Doggy State of Mind"

Literacy Focus: Preparation for Delivering an Effective Oral Presentation

Content Focus: Acknowledging Kids' Unique Gifts and Talents

Featured Activities: Relaxation Activity for Kids and Student Oral Presentation Planning

Lesson Overview: Children will be invited to recognize the importance of being kind to themselves when learning something new or taking on a challenge, and learn to recognize their unique gifts and talents by participating in a relaxation and visualization exercise. Students will also review the lessons during this program and then prepare to give a one- to two-minute oral presentation about what they learned over the past 8 weeks and what they are most proud of. Children and their parents participate in a BoneWork challenge that encourages them to practice their oral presentation, which they will give during the final

week of this program. Parents are also invited to the final Doggone Awesome Reading Celebration and Adoption Ceremony following the completion of the program.

Lesson 10: “Program Wrap-Up: I’m Doggone Brilliant!”

Literacy Focus: Delivery of Individual Student Oral Presentations

Content Focus: Celebrating Student Accomplishments and Adoption Ceremony

Featured Book: *Are You Ready for Me?* by Claire Buchwald

Lesson Overview: The intention of this final lesson is to teach students the importance of celebrating their accomplishments. Children showcase how much they have learned by giving a short narrative presentation using their I’m Doggone Brilliant! boards and their planning sheets, and are also encouraged to think carefully about the responsibilities involved in owning a real dog. Finally, the program wraps up with a Doggone Awesome Reading Celebration and Adoption Ceremony, where families are invited to watch their children (and their plush dogs) receive Adoption Certificates and celebrate all they’ve learned by viewing their I’m Doggone Brilliant! boards. After the ceremony, children are invited to take home their plush dogs to become part of their families.