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Companion Teaching Activities

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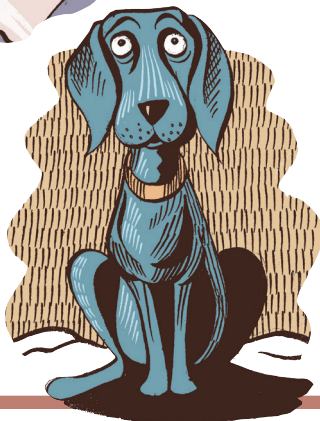
Illustrator Nick Hayes draws political cartoons for the Guardian and New Statesman newspapers and writes graphic novels. His latest book is a study of the Dust Bowl in 1930s America. He lives above a flower market in East London. Learn more at foghornhayes.co.uk.

Design by Sharpe Design.

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Chapter One

1. Describe the setting in great detail. How important is the setting? Does the setting help to create the mood? Why or why not?

2. Why was Tara interested in Lily? Use specific details from the story to support your answer.

3. Figurative language is used in this chapter. What do the phrases “sat as a jewel” and “very green” mean in this story? How do you know?

4. Use context clues to define the following words. Then, verify the definitions using a dictionary: vestige, quaint, plummet.

5. Foreshadowing is used in the following statement: “Tara thought that maybe, just maybe, this dog could be something more.” Make a prediction based on this statement.

Writing Connection: If you could have any type of pet, what would it be? Why?

Chapter Two

1. Why are dogs skilled at search and rescue? Use specific details from the story.

2. What are the four types of search and rescue dogs? Describe each.

3. Why did Tara feel search and rescue was a good fit for their family?

4. Use context clues to define the following words and phrases. Use a dictionary to verify your answers: hodgepodge, eclectic, aptitude, at the helm.

5. Describe the members and the purpose of the K-9 Search and Rescue team.

Writing Connection: Tara used positive reinforcement to reward Lily. If you could create an award to honor someone who inspired you, what type of award would it be and who would receive the award?

Common Core Learning Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R10, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.10, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.6

Chapter Three

1. Describe some of Lily’s quirks. Why are they unique?

2. Use context clues to define the following words, then verify their definitions in the dictionary: combed, trudged, brambles.

3. What is an olfactory receptor? How does Lily use hers?

4. What happened on Lily’s first “save?”

5. Why is Lily’s sense of smell considered a “super power?”

Writing Connection: Imagine you are Tara. Create a blog entry describing Lily’s first save. Use specific details from the story.

Common Core Learning Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R10, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.10, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.6

Chapter Four

1. Why did Tara take Lily to the vet?

2. What treatments did Lily receive?

3. Why was Lily jealous of Daisey?

4. How did Lily show she was ready to get back to work?

5. Use context clues to identify the meaning of the following words and phrases; verify their definitions in the dictionary: deteriorated, fathom, bide her time.

Writing Connection: Create a brochure that describes Addison's disease in dogs. Describe the causes, symptoms, and treatments.

Common Core Learning Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R10, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.7, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.8, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.9, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.10, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.6

Chapter Five

1. Describe the tornado that hit Joplin on May 22, 2011.

2. Where were Tara and her family when the tornado hit?

3. Adjectives are describing words that create lively writing. Underline 10-12 adjectives used in this chapter. In the space below, write a sentence with three adjectives. Underline those adjectives.

4. Why did Jeff leave the family when they returned home?

5. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the following words; verify their definitions with a dictionary: annihilating, debris.

Writing Connection: Imagine you are a weather forecaster. What advice would you give your viewers to prepare for the tornado?

Chapter Six

1. How did Tara and Lily help after the tornado?

2. Why was Tara concerned about Lily?

3. How had the town of Joplin changed?

4. Give an example of goodness that Tara witnessed after the tornado.

5. Alliteration is the repeated use of consonants at the beginning of words to create a lyrical phrase. There are two examples of alliteration in this chapter: “deceptively dangerous dusting” and “rickety remains of the roofless.” In the space below, create your own sentence which uses alliteration.

Writing Connection: Imagine you were a Joplin resident. Write a thank-you note for an act of kindness you witnessed.

Common Core Learning Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R10, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.10, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.6

Chapter Seven

1. Why were Tara and Lily at St. John's? What did they see there?

2. What award was Lily nominated for? What made this particular nomination so special?

3. What is the purpose of the Hero Dog Awards? What type of dog can receive this honor?

4. Why is Lily a good example of a Hero Dog?

5. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the following words and verify their meanings with the dictionary: taut, lurched, catastrophic, exuberant.

Writing Connection: Imagine you are Tara's mother. Write a nomination letter asking the selection committee to choose Lily as a finalist for Hero Dog.

Chapter Eight

1. What is Tara and Lily's motto? What does it mean?

2. What is life like for Tara and Lily today?

3. Compare and contrast Joplin as it is described in this chapter with Joplin as it is described in the first chapter.

4. Why was it "fate" for Lily to be Tara's dog?

5. Use context clues to determine the meanings of the following words; verify their definitions using the dictionary: splotched, rousing, closure, fate.

Writing Connection: Hope is a theme in this chapter. Write a poem that demonstrates the theme of hope.

Common Core Learning Standards: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R10, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.10, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.3, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.L.6