

CTYOnline Younger Readers' Series

"Dog Stories" Syllabus

Please note: Parent should review the books in each series before deciding on a theme that will be most interesting and appropriate for their child. Students taking "Dog Stories" will read *Ribsy* by Beverly Cleary, *A Dog's Life: Autobiography of a Stray* by Ann M. Martin, *101 Dalmatians* by Dodie Smith, and *The Good Dog* by Avi.

Instructions for Lesson One:

1. Begin reading *Ribsy* by Beverly Cleary in the following chunks:

Chapter 1 (pg. 1-31);

Chapter 2 (pg. 32-59);

Chapter 3 (pg. 60-89);

Chapter 4 (pg. 90-125).

2. Read the pages above and then take this self-graded Quiz.

Directions: Read the pages listed above for this lesson before taking this self-graded quiz. If you don't know an answer, refer to your book.. Feel free to click on the links to learn the definitions of literary terms such as "[inference](#)," "[simile](#)," "[alliteration](#)," and "[onomatopoeia](#)."

3. Post ONE of the following two blog assignments (your choice) to the Discussion Blog:

a. Pretend you are Henry and write a 50 - 150 word detailed description of your missing dog's personality and appearance. Remember—although this description may be too long to actually fit in a newspaper ad or poster, it should be the description that Henry thinks is accurate and complete. Be sure to focus on describing your missing dog's personality, not just his appearance!

b. Pretend you are one of Mrs. Sonchek's students and write a 50 - 150 word article for the school newspaper describing Ribsy's adventure with the squirrel. Make sure that your article about Ribsy has a clever headline and answers the reporter's questions of Who, What, Where, When, and How.

4. Contribute three (or more) thoughtful posts to the Discussion Board in response to any of the following questions. (Remember! At least one of your three thoughtful posts should be in reply to a discussion post made by another student.)

a. What inference? Henry told Ribsby to go home at least twice when Ribsby was chasing the family's new car. Why do you think the author tells us that Henry told Ribsby "less sharply" the second time? What inference do you think the author wants you as the reader to make about Henry's feelings?

b. Mrs. Dingley's ideas. Do you think that the girl's mother (Mrs. Dingley) had a realistic idea of how much work is involved in keeping a dog?

c. "Nice dog." On page 48, Mr. Dingley says, "I'm sorry, old boy, this is no way to treat a nice dog like you." After all the trouble Ribsby has caused, why do you think Mr. Dingley has the opinion that Ribsby is a "nice dog?"

d. Who was a better friend to Ribsby? At the shopping center, Mr. Dingley did not want to bring the dog home, but Mrs. Dingley did. By the time Ribsby ran away, do you think that Mr. Dingley or Mrs. Dingley was a better friend to Ribsby? Explain your answer.

e. "Tail between his legs" What do you think is meant on page 65 when a dog is described as slinking away "with his tail between his legs?"

f. Why escape? On page 77, Ribsby is fed, warm, and safe with Mrs. Frawley. While he is comfortable, he is not happy and eventually runs away. Do you think the dog was more interested in escaping from someone or in running to someone?

Note: You are provided with a list of "Mind-Expanding Vocabulary Words from *Ribsby*" that you can use to help better understand the book and increase your knowledge of vocabulary words in general. Crossword puzzles are also included to help reinforce your knowledge of these useful vocabulary words. Working on the crossword puzzles is an optional—not required—activity!

Instructions for Lesson Two:

1. Finish reading *Ribsby*, reading the following chunks:

Chapter 5 (pg. 126-148);
Chapter 6 (pg. 149-180);
Chapter 7 (pg. 181-220).

2. Read the pages above and then take this self-graded Quiz.

Directions: Read the pages listed above for this lesson before taking this self-graded quiz. If you don't know an answer, refer to your book.. Feel free to click on the links to learn

the definitions of literary terms such as "[*inference*](#)," "[*simile*](#)," "[*alliteration*](#)," and "[*onomatopoeia*](#)."

3. Post ONE of the following blog assignments to the Discussion Blog:

a. Pretend you are Henry and write a 50-150 word letter to "your" diary trying to decide whether it is time for you to give up hoping that Ribsby will come home and get a new dog to love instead.

b. Pretend you are Henry just after he hung up on his phone call to Joe and write a 50-150 word speech convincing your parents that they need to drive you to Joe's neighborhood to look for Ribsby. If you want, you can also write down Henry's parents' responses to Henry's pleas.

4. Contribute three (or more) thoughtful posts to the Discussion Board in response to any of the following topics. (Remember! At least one of these three thoughtful posts should be in reply to a discussion post made by another student.)

a. **Why does Joe remove Ribsby's collar?** Could there be more than one reason that Joe took off Ribsby's collar before he brought the dog into his house? What different reasons can you think of?

b. **Could Ribsby be happy with Joe?** Do you think that Ribsby could have been happy if he had stayed with Joe?

c. **Why is Junior a funny name for a dog?** Why do you think so many people thought that Junior was a funny name for a dog?

d. **Henry's thoughts during his paper route.** Why did Henry fling the newspaper extra hard on page 150? What was he thinking about as he did his paper route?

e. **Could anything help Henry?** Do you think that there was anything that Henry's family and friends could do to make him feel better when Ribsby was missing?

f. **"Finder's Keepers"** Joe's position about why Ribsby is now his dog seems to be 'finders keepers, losers weepers.' Do you think he has a point? Do you think Joe's family has an obligation or duty to try to find Ribsby's original family? Do you think your opinion would change if Joe's family treated Ribsby better than Henry's family and Ribsby was happier with Joe?

g. **When did Joe believe?** When do you think that Joe first believed that Ribsby was really Henry's dog?

h. **What was Larry afraid would happen?** What is Larry afraid would happen to him and his mother if Mrs. Kreech finds Ribsby in the apartment building?

Note: You are provided with a list of “Mind-Expanding Vocabulary Words from *Ribsy*” that you can use to help better understand the book and increase your knowledge of vocabulary words in general. Crossword puzzles are also included to help reinforce your knowledge of these useful vocabulary words. Working on the crossword puzzles is an optional—not required—activity!

Instructions for Lesson Three:

1. Begin reading *101 Dalmatians* by Dodie Smith in the following chunks:

Pg. 3-12 (“The Happy Couples”); Pg.13-21 (“The Puppies Arrive”); and Pg. 22-32 (“Perdita”);

Pg. 33-39 (“Cruella de Vil Pays Two Calls”), Pg. 40-50 (“Hark, Hark, the Dogs do Bark”), Pg. 51-58 (“To the Rescue”), and Pg. 59-64 (“At the Old Inn”);

Pg. 65-74 (“Cross Country”), Pg. 75-85 (“Hot Buttered Toast”), and Pg. 86-97 (“What They Saw from the Folly”).

2. Read the pages above and then take this self-graded Quiz.

Directions: Read the pages listed above for this lesson before taking this self-graded quiz. If you don’t know an answer, refer to your book.. Feel free to click on the links to learn the definitions of literary terms such as “[inference](#),” “[simile](#),” “[alliteration](#),” and “[onomatopoeia](#).”

3. Post ONE of the following blog assignments to the Discussion Blog:

a. Think about an animal who might consider you (or someone you know) as his or her “pet” human. Then, pretend you are that animal and write a 50-150 word description of the personality of your “pet” human--- from that animal’s [point of view](#). Remember that the animal has to describe the personality of a human he or she knows very well. You can begin the blog by writing “My pet is”

b. Pretend you are the little boy in the “Cross Country” chapter who threw the stone at Pongo. Then, (pretending that this particular little boy happens to be able to write), create a 50-150 word diary account of his encounters with the two dogs from the young boy’s [point of view](#). You can begin the blog by writing, “Dear Diary....”

4. Contribute three (or more) thoughtful posts to the Discussion Board in response to any of the following topics. (Remember! At least one of these three thoughtful posts should be in reply to a discussion post made by another student.)

a. First paragraph. Do you like the first paragraph of the book? Does it make you want to read more of the book? Explain your answer.

b. Why invite Cruella? Why do you think Mrs. Dearly feels she has to invite Cruella to dinner?

c. How does Mr. Dearly revive the newborn? What did Mr. Dearly do to the puppy that looked like it was born dead? Did you expect his actions to do any good? How does Mr. Dearly's actions differ from those of the puppies' mother in the beginning of the second chapter ("The Wheelbarrow") in *A Dog's Life*? Do both actions seem realistic? Why the difference? Explain your answer fully.

d. Why a foster mother? Why does Splendid Vet advise the Dearlys to find a foster mother for the puppies? Do you think it makes sense to expect another dog to be willing to feed and care for puppies that were not born to her?

e. Usual vs. Unusual dogs. What does the author mean in page 28 when she says, "In fact, usual dogs are really more unusual than unusual dogs"? Does this make any sense at all?

f. Why was Mr. Dearly jealous? In the beginning of the 4th chapter titled "Cruella De Vil Pays Two Calls," the author says on page 33 that Mr. Dearly was a "little jealous." Why was he feeling that way?

g. Complicated relationships. The relationship between Missis and Perdita is complicated because Missis can't help feeling somewhat jealous. Why? What steps do Missis, Perdita, and Pongo take to make sure that the three adult dogs work together in their common goal of caring for the puppies?

h. "played with alphabet blocks." In the chapter "Cross Country," the author states on page 68 that Pongo was good at reading because he had "played with alphabet blocks" as a puppy. Is this believable? Do you think it is possible for a dog to learn to read?

i. Why did boy throw the stone? In the chapter, "Cross Country," Missis has two different explanations for why the little boy threw the stone at Pongo. What are these two explanations? Explain which of the two explanations you find to be more believable.

j. Portrayal of Missis as not very intelligent. All throughout the book, but especially in the chapter titled, "Hot Buttered Toast," the author seems to emphasize Missis' lack of intelligence and common sense. Can you find some examples in the text when the author portrays Missis as being not too smart?

k. Portrayal of Missis as admirable character. Even if Missis is described as not very smart, the author does portray her as an appealing and lovable character. Cite some examples from the text (in "Hot Buttered Toast" or any other chapter) of times when Missis is shown to be an admirable dog.

l. Questions about Sir Charles. How does Sir Charles know the names of Pongo and Missis? What does Sir Charles mean when he says, “well, what a joy to know that dogs go on too—I have always hoped it. Good news, for you too, my boy” on page 83?

m. Meaning of "folly." Without using words from a dictionary, can you explain what the word “folly” means?

Note: You are provided with a list of “Mind-Expanding Vocabulary Words from *101 Dalmatians*” that you can use to help better understand the book and increase your knowledge of vocabulary words in general. Crossword puzzles are also included to help reinforce your knowledge of these useful vocabulary words. Working on the crossword puzzles is an optional—not required— activity!

Instructions for Lesson Four:

1. Finish reading *101 Dalmatians* in the following chunks:

Pg. 98-110 (“In the Enemy’s Camp”), Pg. 111-123 (“Sudden Danger”), and Pg. 124-130 (“The Little Blue Cart”);

Pg. 131-143 (“Christmas Eve”), Pg. 144-156 (“Miracle Needed”), Pg. 157-166 (“The White Cat’s Revenge”);

Pg. 167-177 (“Who Are These Strange Black Dogs”) and Pg. 178-184 (“The Hundred and Oneth Dalmatian”)

2. Read the pages above and then take this self-graded Quiz.

Directions: Read the pages listed above for this lesson before taking this self-graded quiz. If you don’t know an answer, refer to your book.. Feel free to click on the links to learn the definitions of literary terms such as “[inference](#),” “[simile](#),” “[alliteration](#),” and “[onomatopoeia](#).”

3. Post ONE of the following blog assignments to the Discussion Blog:

a. Pretend you are Pongo and write a 50-150 word thank-you letter to one of the dogs or cats that helped him find and rescue his puppies.

b. Pretend you are one of the adults in the Dearly household at the end of the book, and write a 50-150 word letter to a close friend describing some of the challenges and adventures you encounter while raising 101 dogs in your home.

4. Contribute three (or more) thoughtful posts to the Discussion Board in response to any of the following topics. (Remember! At least one of these three thoughtful posts should be in reply to a discussion post made by another student.)

a. How did Pongo and Missis become the real parents for so many dalmatian puppies? How did Pongo and Missis each develop the feeling that they were the parents of all 97 puppies? Pick either Pongo or Missis and trace the dog's thoughts that took place during the chapters, "In the Enemy's Camp" and "Sudden Danger." Cite passages in the book in your answer.

b. Parental advice. At the end of the chapter "In the Enemy's Camp," Missis thinks this about the puppies: "...there were many things they didn't know, many ways in which they needed a mother's advice." Think about and then describe some of the things you think real puppies need to learn from their mothers (and fathers!).

c. Was cruelty due to ignorance? In the chapter "The Little Blue Cart," Missis says "The bad little boy was only bad because he had never known dogs." The author's next sentence is "And she was probably right." Do you agree with Missis and the author? Explain your answer.

d. What is the "not a barn"? On page 141 in the chapter "Christmas Eve," the dogs take refuge in "what is not a barn." What clues are there to tell you what the building really is? What was the "far more beautiful television" picture that the Cadpig enjoyed looking at so much?

e. Why not kill Cruella? Explain why Pongo doesn't kill Cruella as the Staffordshire suggested at the end of the chapter "Miracle Needed."

f. Can cats and dogs be friends? Do you think that dogs and cats can be friends? Cite passages in the book to support your answer.

g. How happy was Splendid Vet? On page 174 is the following sentence: "So Mr. Dearly rang up the Splendid Vet, who was delighted to be waked up and called out at nearly midnight on Christmas Eve." Based on what you have read about "Splendid Vet" in the third chapter "Perdita," do you think that Splendid Vet really was happy to be called out so late at night on Christmas Eve? Why or why not?

h. Do you feel sorry for Cruella's husband? On page 176 of the chapter "Who Are These Strange Black Dogs," Missis is sorry to find out that Cruella's husband is financially ruined by the animals' destruction of his furs. The white cat is not sorry because she thinks "he is as bad as Cruella." Do you feel sorry for Cruella's husband? Does it matter to you that he is "weak" while Cruella is "strong"?

i. Puppies playthings. In the Dearly's house the pups were able to play with "lots of things which were not intended to be played with (but were played with ever afterwards)." Can you think of what those things might have been? List as many as you can.

j. "Kindness makes kind cats." On the last page the author says "kindness makes kind cats." Might this be true? Do you think that this saying might apply to other living creatures? Do you think it applies to all living creatures? Explain your answer.

k. Dog to human communication. In this book dogs can communicate anything they want to other dogs but just some messages to humans. In real life, which messages from dogs do you think humans can understand?

l. Human to dog communication. Think of the real dogs you have met and describe which human words or phrases they seem to be able to understand.

Note: You are provided with a list of "Mind-Expanding Vocabulary Words from *101 Dalmatians*" that you can use to help better understand the book and increase your knowledge of vocabulary words in general. Crossword puzzles are also included to help reinforce your knowledge of these useful vocabulary words. Working on the crossword puzzles is an optional—not required—activity.

Instructions for Lesson Five:

1. Begin reading *A Dog's Life: Autobiography of a Stray* by Ann M. Martin in the following chunks:

Pages IX and X ("Night") and Pages 3 - 34 ("The House in the Country," "The Wheelbarrow," "Mother," "Secret Dogs")

Pages 35 - 67 ("The Highway," "Bad Dogs," "The Throwaways," "Squirrel Alone")

Pages 68 - 98 ("On the Move," "The Fight," "Healing," "Town Dogs")

2. Read the pages above and then take this self-graded Quiz.

Directions: Read the pages listed above for this lesson before taking this self-graded quiz. If you don't know an answer, refer to your book.. Feel free to click on the links to learn the definitions of literary terms such as "[inference](#)," "[simile](#)," "[alliteration](#)," and "[onomatopoeia](#)."

3. Post ONE of the following blog assignments to the Discussion Blog:

a. Pretend that you are Moon and write a 50-150 word description from your own point of view about your adventures from the time you decide to leave the barn followed by Squirrel to the time when someone in the parking lot of the mall decides to take you home.

b. Squirrel and Moon had some good times during their time together. Make up a 50-150 word story about one of their adventures that is not mentioned in the book.

4. Contribute three (or more) thoughtful posts to the Discussion Board in response to any of the following topics. (Remember! At least one of these three thoughtful posts should be in reply to a discussion post made by another student.)

a. **Best place to give birth.** What factors do you think the mother dog was considering when she was looking for the best place to give birth?

b. **The name game.** Why do you think the mother dog Stream named her puppies “Squirrel” and “Bone”? Can you think of any better names for the puppies? Explain your answer.

c. **What does it mean when a dog holds up tail?** When Bone went exploring on page 18 in the chapter, “Mother,” he held his tail up. What do you think it means when a dog holds up its tail?

d. **Could puppies survive?** Were you (as the reader) relieved when Bone and Squirrel were rescued by Marcy and George as the puppies were trying to cross the highway? Do you think that the puppies could survive without the help of others? Explain your answer.

e. **Bad dogs or bad training?** Do you think that Marcy’s method of housebreaking by calling the puppies “bad dogs!” is going to work? What important things were Marcy and George forgetting to do in the chapter “Bad Dogs”?

f. **What about George's decision?** Were you surprised at George’s decision? What else could he--or should he--have done? Do you think he will ever regret his actions?

g. **Moon's message.** What do you think was Moon trying to communicate to Squirrel when the dog “wags its tail, “put her rump in the air, chest and front legs on the ground” and “crawled on her belly” on page 66?

Note: You are provided with a list of “Mind-Expanding Vocabulary Words from *A Dog's Life*” that you can use to help better understand the book and increase your knowledge of vocabulary words in general. Crossword puzzles are also included to help reinforce your knowledge of these useful vocabulary words. Working on the crossword puzzles is an optional—not required—activity!

Instructions for Lesson Six:

1. Finish reading *A Dog's Life: Autobiography of a Stray* by Ann M. Martin in the following chunks:

Pages 99 -122 (“The Town Dogs,” “The Long Winter,” “Moon,” “Gentle Hands,”);

Pages 123 -143 (“Summer Dog,” “Farm Dog,” “The Scent of Bone”);

Pages 147-182 (“Old Woman,” “Addie,” “Companions,” “Two Old Ladies,” “Home”).

2. Read the pages above and then take this self-graded Quiz.

Directions: Read the pages listed above for this lesson before taking this self-graded quiz. If you don't know an answer, refer to your book.. Feel free to click on the links to learn the definitions of literary terms such as “[inference](#),” “[simile](#),” “[alliteration](#),” and “[onomatopoeia](#).”

3. Post ONE of the following blog assignments to the Discussion Blog:

a. Let's rewrite the plot of the chapter “The Scent of Bone” and make up a 50 - 150 word story about the day that Squirrel found her beloved brother Bone.

b. In the chapter, “Gentle Hands,” Dr. Roth is trying to find a good home for Squirrel. Pretend that you are the reporter of the local newspaper whom she asked to write a sympathetic article describing the wounded stray dog. Write a 50 - 150 word human interest article about the stray dog that might attract a family to give the dog a new home.

4. Contribute three (or more) thoughtful posts to the Discussion Board in response to any of the following topics. (Remember! At least one of these three thoughtful posts should be in reply to a discussion post made by another student.)

a. **Comfort vs. Freedom.** Do you think that Squirrel and Moon were envious when they saw a dog wearing a rain coat or having a ribbon tied around its neck? Or do you think that Squirrel and Moon preferred their lives of freedom, even if it meant foraging for food and sleeping in the space between dumpsters in a parking lot? Explain your answer.

b. **Feeding strays.** In the chapter “The Long Winter,” the women who were giving hamburger in tin pans to stray dogs were afraid of being seen, especially by the people employed by animal shelters. In many areas, however, animal shelters and private rescue organizations work together to manage feral (that is, non-domesticated) cat colonies through TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return). Feral cats are trapped, neutered so that they will not reproduce, released, and receive future veterinary care when needed. Shy and friendly stray animals who seem eager to be domesticated are rescued, given medical care, socialized if necessary, and put up for adoption. Foster cats and kittens are cared for in a

home environment until loving homes are found. Do you think this approach might work with feral dogs? Why or why not?

c. **How can the public, including children, help stray animals?** Not every family is in a position to adopt a stray pet. Is there anything else that that a family can do to help stray animals and the organizations that care for them? Click [here](#) to see the "Wish List" link of one Maryland animal shelter and click [here](#) to visit the "How to Get Involved " link provided by the Humane Society of United States. How can a child who cannot adopt a stray pet still make a difference to improve the lives of stray animals?

d. **Making an [inference](#) about the Beckers.** When you heard the conversation on page 122 at the end of the chapter "Gentle Hands," did your opinion of the Becker family change? What [inference](#) can you make about how devoted or committed the family will be to their new dog "Daisy"? Explain fully.

e. **When the Beckers move out.** When the Becker family moved out of their vacation house, do you think that they had a responsibility toward the dog they had cared for during the summer? What options did they have? Should it matter that the dog was a stray before they took him to their home?

f. **Why is Squirrel on the move?** Why do you think that Squirrel never stayed at one farm for more than a winter? Do you think there is some instinct for wild dogs to keep on the move?

g. **Susan vs. Marcy.** How are Susan's views about how to live with a dog different from those of Marcy and the Becker family? Do you think that Squirrel would have been as happy to stay with Susan when Squirrel was a younger dog? Explain.

h. **Susan vs. Mr. Becker.** How does Susan's attitude toward paying Squirrel's veterinarian's bill differ from the attitude of Mr. Becker? Do you think that Susan was richer than Mr. Becker? If not, what other explanations can you give for their different reactions?

i. **What about Mrs. Oliver?** Why do you think Mrs. Oliver seemed so concerned about Susan? Do you think that Mrs. Oliver really had Susan's best interests at heart? If not, why would Mrs. Oliver keep checking on Susan?

j. **Squirrel's description of the passage of winter days.** On page 172, Squirrel described that "winter days at Susan's passed slowly and gently, like leaves falling from trees." Do you prefer this description or the more [simple](#) description that "winter days at Susan's passed slowly and gently"? Explain your answer.

Note: You are provided with a list of "Mind-Expanding Vocabulary Words from *A Dog's Life*" that you can use to help better understand the book and increase your knowledge of vocabulary words in general. Crossword puzzles are also included to help reinforce your

knowledge of these useful vocabulary words. Working on the crossword puzzles is an optional—not required— activity!

Instructions for Lesson Seven:

1. Begin reading *The Good Dog* by Avi in the following chunks:

Chapters 1 - 3 (pages 1- 29)

Chapters 4 - 7 (pages 30 - 58)

Chapters 8 - 11 (pages 59 - 88)

2. Read the pages above and then take this self-graded Quiz.

Directions: Read the pages listed above for this lesson before taking this self-graded quiz. If you don't know an answer, refer to your book.. Feel free to click on the links to learn the definitions of literary terms such as "[inference](#)," "[simile](#)," "[alliteration](#)," and "[onomatopoeia](#)."

3. Post ONE of the following blog assignments to the Discussion Blog:

a. Jack wants to spend time with a pack of wolves. With what kind of wild animal would you like to spend a week? Write a 50-150 word description of your week with a group of wild animals, including what attracts you about that animal, what activities you would do during that week, what kind of food you would eat, and whether you expect that you would want to return to the life of living with humans at the end of the week.

b. In Chapter 7, Lupin tries to convince McKinley that if he joined the wolf pack he would be "free" and no longer "a slave to humans." Pretend you are McKinley and from the dog's [point of view](#), write a 50-150 word response to Lupin, explaining the disadvantages of life in the wolf pack and some advantages to being a domestic dog. The purpose of your response is not to give Lupin your final answer, but instead to explain to the wolf why the decision is not an easy one to make.

4. Contribute three (or more) thoughtful posts to the Discussion Board in response to any of the following topics. (Remember! At least one of these three thoughtful posts should be in reply to a discussion post made by another student.)

a. McKinley's question. In Chapter 2, page 14, McKinley thinks, "Why did humans think they owned their dogs when dogs only rarely thought they owned people?" Can you answer McKinley's question?

b. Will Jack turn into a cruel master? In your own words, explain why Lupin tells McKinley on page 57 of Chapter 7 that Jack will turn into a cruel master. Do you think that Lupin might be right?

c. "Successful leadership." In Chapter 2, page 16, McKinley thinks that he has to provide "successful leadership" in order to stay head dog. What are some the duties and responsibilities involved in being a good head dog? Do you think that there are any privileges attached to the position? Explain why a dog would want to be the head dog of a pack.

d. Shouldn't all people look for their missing dogs? Henry and his family searched for Ribsy; The Dearlys looked for their missing dalmatians. McKinley is unhappy that Mr. Pycraft is looking for Duchess. Why shouldn't Mr. Pycraft look for his missing dog? Shouldn't all masters look for their missing dogs?

e. McKinley's argument with Redburn. In Chapter 9, page 73, McKinley argues with Redburn about whether Duchess has the right to run away from her master. Why does Redburn think he should help the humans find Duchess and return her to Mr. Pycraft? McKinley calls Redburn a "leash-licker" (the same term Lupin called him). What do you think the word means and why does it seem to be used as an insult?

f. Who will get hurt? At the end of Chapter 9, McKinley is worried that Redburn is going to "lead his human to Duchess. But what they'll find is Lupin." Why does this worry him? Can you tell who McKinley thinks is going to get hurt if Lupin and the humans meet? Who do you think is more likely to get hurt?

g. Why call Lupin "he"? Why does Jack always refer to Lupin the wolf as "he"?

h. Why can dogs roam free in Steamboat Springs? In Steamboat Springs dogs can roam free without being on leashes. Most American towns require that dogs be on leashes except in the dog's owner's property or in special dog parks. Why do you think that Steamboat Springs is different?

Note: You are provided with a list of "Mind-Expanding Vocabulary Words from *The Good Dog*" that you can use to help better understand the book and increase your knowledge of vocabulary words in general.

Crossword puzzles are also included to help reinforce your knowledge of these useful vocabulary words. Working on the crossword puzzles is an optional—not required—activity.

Instructions for Lesson Eight:

1. Continue reading *The Good Dog* in the following chunks:

Chapters 12 - 14 (pages 89 - 115)

Chapters 15 - 18 (pages 116 - 144)

Chapters 19 - 21 (pages 145 - 171)

2. Read the pages above and then take this self-graded Quiz.

Directions: Read the pages listed above for this lesson before taking this self-graded quiz. If you don't know an answer, refer to your book. Feel free to click on the links to learn the definitions of literary terms such as "[inference](#)," "[simile](#)," "[alliteration](#)," and "[onomatopoeia](#)."

3. Post ONE of the following blog assignments to the Discussion Blog:

- a. On page 103 of Chapter 13, Jaws asks McKinley if he is still top dog. McKinley thinks "...if they even asked such a question, it meant things were going to be different for a while..." In 50 - 150 words expand on McKinley's thoughts. What things might be different? Why would McKinley be bothered by Jaws asking such a question?
- b. In Chapter 15, pages 122 – 3, McKinley and Lupin discuss why humans are afraid of wolves. Lupin suggests the reason is that wolves refuse to be "slaves" to humans. McKinley suggests the reason is because wolves are wild but look like dogs so humans are "confused." In 50 to 150 words, tell what you think and why. You can agree with Lupin, agree with McKinley or have a different opinion.

4. Contribute three (or more) thoughtful posts to the Discussion Board in response to any of the following topics. (Remember! At least one of these three thoughtful posts should be in reply to a discussion post made by another student.)

- a. **Believable vs. unbelievable dog behavior.** McKinley realizes on page 85 of Chapter 11 that "He was stalling and he knew it." On page 101 of Chapter 13, McKinley hears that Redburn is spreading the false story that he beat McKinley out. Do you believe that dogs can "stall" before doing something? Do you think that dogs tell "lies" to each other or to humans? What behaviors of the dogs in this book do you find to be unbelievable and which behaviors do you think that humans and dogs share?
- b. **What do humans do when angry?** In Chapter 14, page 108, McKinley thinks, "When humans were angry they did things." Do you agree with McKinley? What "things" do humans do when angry? Do they become more dangerous?
- c. **Definition of the word "door."** Lupin asks McKinley, "What is a door?" The dog answers in Chapter 19, page 148, that a door is "a flat board that swings that lets you into houses but keeps the weather out." Here is the definition of "door" from *YourDictionary.com*:
"a movable structure for opening or closing an entrance, as to a building or room, or giving access to a closet, cupboard, etc.: most doors turn on hinges, slide in grooves, or revolve on an axis."
Which definition do you think is better? Why?

d. **How do humans depend on their dogs?** In Chapter 19, pages 150-1, McKinley tells a wounded Lupin that he and Aspen need to return to their homes because “The humans depend on us too.” What does he mean? How do humans depend on their dogs?

e. **Communication between McKinley and Jack's mother.** Re-read what Jack’s mother says to McKinley on page 160 of Chapter 20. Based on what you have read so far, how much of what she says do you think McKinley understands? Do you think she could have understood McKinley’s warnings if she had paid closer attention?

f. **McKinley's sense of responsibility.** McKinley wishes that, on Chapter 20, page 161, “the responsibility for the pup wasn’t just his.” He is talking about Jack, who has parents living with him. Why do you think McKinley thinks that he has sole responsibility?

g. **McKinley's messages.** Throughout the story, McKinley leaves various messages to other dogs by peeing. What are some of these messages? In particular, what was the message that McKinley was sending Redburn when McKinley peed on the Sullivan’s gatepost in the beginning of Chapter 21?

h. **Why might Jaws be embarrassed by his name?** Why might the dog named “Jaws” be embarrassed about his name?

i. **Why shouldn't Redburn's primary loyalty be to his humans?** Do you have any sympathy or understanding of Redburn’s position? After all, his human family does treat him well, so why shouldn’t his primary loyalty be to his humans rather than to other dogs or wolves?

Note: You are provided with a list of “Mind-Expanding Vocabulary Words from *The Good Dog*” that you can use to help better understand the book and increase your knowledge of vocabulary words in general. Crossword puzzles are also included to help reinforce your knowledge of these useful vocabulary words. Working on the crossword puzzles is an optional—not required—activity.

Instructions for Lesson Nine:

1. Finish reading *The Good Dog* in the following chunks:

Chapters 22 - 24 (pages 172 - 193)

Chapters 25 - 28 (pages 194 - 218)

Chapters 29 - 31 (pages 219 - 243)

2. Read the pages above and then take this self-graded Quiz.

Directions: Read the pages listed above for this lesson before taking this self-graded quiz. If you don't know an answer, refer to your book.. Feel free to click on the links to learn the definitions of literary terms such as "[inference](#)," "[simile](#)," "[alliteration](#)," and "[onomatopoeia](#)."

3. Post ONE of the following blog assignments to the Discussion Blog:

a. In Chapter 30, McKinley tells the pack that dogs should stay with people, but as equals. Most dog training manuals, however, state that it is important for humans to assume the role of pack leader and be dominant over their pets. What do you think? Write a 50 - 150 word explanation of whether you think that dogs should stay with people as their equals or whether you think that humans must be dominant over their pets.

b. McKinley feels loyalty and responsible to his people, the other dogs in Steamboat Springs, and to Lupin. People also feel responsibility to different groups. In 50 -150 words, answer the following questions:

How successful was McKinley at juggling his divided loyalties? Could he have acted any differently or made other choices? Explain.

What about the different groups for which you feel responsibility? Do you ever have problems juggling your divided loyalties? Explain.

4. Contribute three (or more) thoughtful posts to the Discussion Board in response to any of the following topics. (Remember! At least one of these three thoughtful posts should be in reply to a discussion post made by another student.)

a. Which species is smarter? In Chapter 23, page 180, Aspen comments, "Don't you ever wish people were smarter?" Throughout the story, what did the dogs know or understand that the humans didn't? Based on the story, which species (dogs or humans) is more intelligent? If you base your answer on real life, which species do you consider "smarter?" Explain.

b. Understanding humans and their world. In Chapter 25, page 197, Lupin says to McKinley that she doesn't understand "your world." McKinley responds that it is hard to understand. What are some of the things about humans that McKinley and Lupin find hard to understand?

c. McKinley's loyalties. At the end of Chapter 25, McKinley wonders to whom did he owe his loyalty: To the dog pack? To his humans? To wolves? Or to himself? What should he do next if his loyalty is to the dog pack? To his humans? To wolves? Or to himself? What actually is his plan of action in Chapter 26?

d. Was it fair to attack first? Do you think it was fair for McKinley to attack Redburn in the beginning of Chapter 26 without warning him first? Explain the circumstances and your reasons in detail.

e. Bowing down to Lupin. Why do you think McKinley tells all the dogs that he bowed down before Lupin during the pack meeting that is described in Chapter 30? Why does Redburn argue that a dog bowing down before a wolf was a mistake?

f. Redburn's treatment of the other dogs. At the pack meeting in Chapter 30, page 231, Redburn calls the dogs in the pack “Curs!” “Mutts!” and “Mongrels!” and advises them to “Listen to your better!” Do you think this is a smart way to convince the dogs to vote him as head dog? How does McKinley’s treatment of the other dogs differ from that of Redburn?

g. How old is Jack? How old do you think Jack is? What makes you think so? How do you think that Jack would feel if he understood that he had been voted to be an honorary dog?

h. Questions about dogs joining the wolfpack. Do you think any of the dogs in McKinley’s pack will follow Lupin and join the wolf pack? If they do, what problems will they have surviving in the wilderness? Do you think that dogs like McKinley and Aspen--whose idea of fresh meat is a pot roast and a package of bacon--would be able to feed themselves in the wild? Are you sorry or surprised at McKinley’s final decision about joining the wolf pack? Explain.

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Instructions for Lesson Ten:

1. Post ONE of the two summary blog assignments, which ask you to think about, discuss, and compare all four books read.

2. Contribute three (or more) thoughtful posts to the Discussion Board in response to any of the listed summary topics, which ask you to think about and discuss all four books read.

We hope that you enjoyed your CTY*Online* Younger Readers Series’ course. Students who complete this course satisfactorily will receive a Final Evaluation in 4 to 6 weeks.