

Saving Audie:

A Pit Bull Puppy Gets a Second Chance

Comprehension Lesson Plans for Grades 4 and Up

Author: Dorothy Hinshaw Patent with photos by Bill Munoz

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Objective & Materials Needed

Time Needed: One hour

Objective: Reading comprehension. Response to literature. Current events.

The story demonstrates through a real-life example how compassion, humane care of animals, and hard work can bring second chances.

Materials: Pencils, paper, coloring materials and copy of writing response master.

The questions found in this lesson can be shared with the whole class, in groups, or in individual journals. Please feel free to adapt it in a way that meets the needs of your individual class.

Activating Background Knowledge

Before reading show the cover of the book. The following questions are helpful in making predictions about the text:

“What words would you use to describe this dog?”

“What does the author mean by the title Saving Audie?”

“What do you think the second chance is?”

Have students share thinking with classmates. This can be done whole class, or in small groups. You can chart responses as students share.

During Reading:

Read the first page to students while allowing them to view the illustration.

Possible Questions:

“How do you feel about the way this dog is being treated?”

“Now what do you think the second chance is that the author refers to on the cover?”

After reading the last line on page 4 “People thought they would be dangerous, both to humans and to animals.”

Possible Questions:

“Why do you think people have the idea that the dogs would not be safe with humans or animals?”

“Do you think they are right?”

Continue reading about the dogs being evidence and in the shelters for 4 months. (Pages 5-6)

Discuss what being alone in a cage for 4 months would feel like.

Possible Questions:

“Do you think that keeping them in kennels is helping them?” “Why or why not?”

“How do you think they will react when they are around humans and other dogs again?”

After reading the next 2 pages, discuss how the dogs reacted when they were put through the different situations:

Possible Question:

“What surprised you about how the dogs reacted to new and different situations?”

Continue reading about “Dutch’s” experiences after he is taken from the shelter.

Possible Questions:

“Describe some of the experiences that the puppy has.”

“Where does Dutch end up living?”

“Why did Nicole and Steve think he would fit nicely into Linda and Bill’s home?”

“Why was Dutch a good candidate for agility training?”

Possible questions after reading about Dutch’s life in Linda and Bill’s home:

“What did Dutch need to learn?”

“Name a few things that he did inside the house.”

“What did Linda notice about Dutch as time passed?”
“Why is this a problem?”

Possible questions after reading about Dutch’s surgery and recovery:

“Why did Linda and Bill change Dutch’s name to Audie?”
“What did Audie have to endure after his knee surgeries?”
“Why was this a challenge for this particular dog?”
“What did Audie learn from working so closely with Linda after surgery?”

Continue reading about Audie’s experiences when Linda began to take him out on walks and through training classes.

Possible questions:

“What did Audie learn as he ventured out into the world?”
“Why did he not trust people at first?”
“How was the beginning of his life different than most other dogs?”
“What happened as a result of these daily walks and visits?”
“What other goal did Audie achieve in training classes?”
“After months of recovery and, what could Audie finally do?”

Continue on with the rest of the book:

Possible Questions:

“What does Audie now spend his time doing on Saturdays?”
“Who attends these classes?”
“Why are training classes helpful to people and dogs?”

After Reading:

Discuss with students what surprised them as they heard about Audie and the other Vick dogs’ recovery.

Response to Literature Writing Prompt: (The master outline can be found below)

“How did the compassion, hard work, and love Audie experienced after being rescued from the Bad Newz Kennels change his life?” Give examples from the book to support your response.

Illustrate in the box provided how Audie’s life changed throughout the story.

Name _____

Here is what I learned after reading Saving Audie, by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent.



Related Resources:

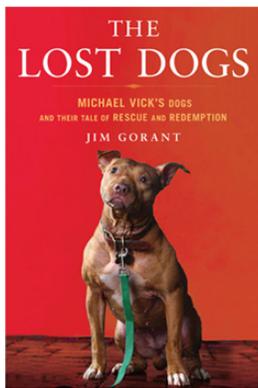


BADRAP.org - for information on pit bull type dogs including the dogs rescued from Bad Newz Kennels.

badrap.org/rescue/vick/evaluations.html - a multi-media piece outlining the evaluation process of the Vick dogs, the road trip to CA and how they did when they arrived.

vickdogblog.blogspot.com - written in the voice of several of the dogs rescued from Bad Newz Kennels. This 'kid friendly' blog outlines their new adventures in their new homes.

American Humane Association - for more humane education resources including free lesson plans.



'The Lost Dogs' - author Jim Gorant published by Gotham Books. A fascinating chronicle of the Vick case with special emphasis on the dogs and their recovery. Written for adults, this book contains some graphic detail so may not be suitable for younger readers.

