

Harry the Dirty Dog

Pre-reading questions

- How does your family decide who cares for your pet
- What is hardest part about caring for your pet?
- What do you most enjoy about your pet?

After-reading questions:

- How do you think Harry's family felt when Harry ran away?
- Was Harry playing safely when he left home? In what ways was Harry unsafe?
- What are some of the things your parents make you do that you don't want to do?
- Was running away a good idea? Why? Why not?
- What else could Harry have done to solve his problem besides running away?
- Pretend it is the day after Harry ran away and came back. While playing in the garden, Harry gets dirty, again. The family is going to want to give him a bath, again. How should Harry and the family handle bath time today? What are some solutions that you can think of.
- Explain how, in this book, Harry struggles with his identity.
- How is Harry the Dog humanized through storytelling? What animal traits does he retain? What human traits does he adopt?
- How does what Harry did fit in with what we already know about him? (He doesn't really want to get clean, he just wants to stay dirty.

ACTIVITY:

Building a Clean Machine: Using blocks, legos, building/construction toys or recyclable materials: Create your own "clean machine" that cleans people, animals or objects. Explain to the group how it works.

Create a Lost Dog Flyer: **Based upon what you know about Harry and how you would feel if you lost a pet, create a "Lost Dog" flyer that you would put up around the neighborhood if you were Harry's owner. Your flyer should include information about Harry - name, color, size, kind of dog, etc. It should also include words and descriptions that tell people how you feel about Harry and how important it is that you get him back. You can also include contact information so that people will know how to reach you.**

Make a Dog Puppet: See <http://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/mbagdog.htm>

Play Doggy, Doggy Where Is Your Bone? Game:

Doggy, Doggy, Who Has Your Bone? is a good activity to use as a whole group time-filler or during a seasonal celebration. The original version begins with one student

("Doggy") sitting on a chair with his/her back to the remainder of the group of students who are seated on the floor. A "bone" (can be made from cardboard, labeled with the word "bone") is placed on the floor directly behind the chair. To begin the game, the teacher silently selects one of the children from the group on the floor to go up and take the "bone" then sit on it to conceal it from the Doggy. Once the bone is out of sight, the group chants, Doggy, Doggy, who has your bone? Doggy then turns to face the group and guesses who has the bone until it is found. The person who was in possession of the bone is now the Doggy.

Variations:

Incorporate language and literacy activities:

- Doggy can wear a name tag ("Doggy") that is passed on to each new Doggy
- Make this a name-learning activity for beginning of the year by setting a rule that Doggy must use the children's names when s/he addresses them to ask, " _____ do you have my bone?"
- story-related characters and prop from story. For example, after reading Harry the Dirty Dog use a scrub brush and the chant, Harry, Harry, who has your brush?