



Hello Goodbye Dog: Reading About Service/Therapy Dogs and their Important Jobs



Lesson title:

Hello Goodbye Dog: Reading about Service/Therapy Dogs and their Important Jobs

Subject and topic: ELA

Grade level:

2nd

Duration:

30 minutes

Lesson summary:

Students read Hello Goodbye Dog by Maria Gianferrari and read a short article about how a shelter dog helped a boy with epilepsy to live a safer and more fulfilling life.

Standards:

- CC.1.2.K.L Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.
- CC.1.2.2.L Read and comprehend literary non-fiction and informational text on grade level, reading independently and proficiently.

Objectives:

Students will be able to

- Gain a better understanding of their own assumptions regarding physical disability
- Students will be able to define the vocabulary words in the book by participating in a discussion following the reading of the book.

Essential Questions:

- EQ1: How should I interact with a service dog?
- EQ2: What are ways a service dog and therapy dog are different?
- EQ3: What are three tasks a service dog might help with?



Vocabulary:

- Service dog
- therapy dog
- Wheelchair
- epilepsy

Materials:

- Hello Goodbye Dog by Maria Gianferrari
Or ability to play [Read Aloud of Hello Goodbye Dog](#)
- copies of [Newslea Article](#) or students can read on tablets or computers, whatever is available for your classroom.

Procedure:

1. Read Hello Goodbye Dog aloud to the class or play the [read aloud](#).
2. Ask a few questions to prompt discussion:
 - a. Why did Moose have to be tested to be a therapy dog? Not every dog can become a therapy dog. They have to be able to follow directions.
3. Individually students will read the short [Newslea Article](#). Ask students to write a paragraph to summarize what they read in the article. They will need to provide at least two key details from the text. You can use this article to grade their reading comprehension and writing skills and choose to add it to homework to save time.
4. Short discussion: Was there anything surprising about the article? Do you have more questions about the article or the book? Do you know someone who might benefit from a service dog?

Related materials:

- News article below, also found at <https://newsela.com/read/elem-shelter-dog-detects-seizures/id/41266/>

Evaluation:

Ask your students this question related to this lesson to gauge how much they learned. **Did this lesson help you understand what a service dog is and how to behave with the dog?**

Thank you for bringing the conversation about disability into your classroom.

Help us evaluate this lesson plan by visiting [our evaluation page to assess this lesson](#). You will find an evaluation both for you and your students to complete there.



Rescue dog makes life better for young owner with epilepsy

By The Fresno Bee, adapted by Newsela staff
03/16/2018

Parker Rogers is 14 years old. When he was 9, he got some news. Doctors told him he had epilepsy. It is an illness. It affects the nervous system. The nervous system connects the brain to the body. It sends messages back and forth. People with epilepsy have seizures. During a seizure, the brain stops working as it should. It happens all of a sudden. The body starts to shake. A seizure can be scary. There is no way to tell if someone has epilepsy unless he or she is having a seizure. Most can live like anyone else.

Epilepsy Changed Parker's Life

Still, the news changed Parker's life. He was having seizures almost every day. Parker could no longer go to school. He could not spend much time with friends. Then Parker met "Toby the Great."

Toby is a big dog. Parker's family found him at an animal rescue center. The center saves stray dogs. It finds them lifelong homes.

Mandy Rogers is Parker's mother. She remembers seeing Toby the first time. The dog looked thin. He was dirty. She did not think Toby was going to be their dog.

Parker Loved Toby Right Away

Parker did not agree. He loved Toby right away. He wanted Toby more than any of the other dogs. So Toby joined the Rogers family. And he changed all of their lives! The Rogers took Toby home. Soon, the dog did something amazing. He learned how to tell when Parker was going to have a seizure.

Mandy was surprised the first time Toby tried to help. He was jumping on Parker. The dog was trying to get the family into one room. Mandy was worried. Toby was acting so strangely. She called a dog trainer for help.

Toby Could Tell A Seizure Was Coming

Then Parker had a seizure. Mandy knew what had happened. Toby was trying to get Parker to sit down! He could tell that a seizure was coming. The dog was trying to warn Mandy.

Since then, Toby has learned more great tricks. He likes to help Parker. The dog knows how to bring Parker medicine. Toby knows when a seizure is coming. He runs to get Parker's mom.



Less Scary To Go Out In The World

Parker says Toby helps him feel safe. The dog is a great friend. He has made Parker braver, too. Now it is less scary to go out in the world. Parker knows Toby is there to help.

Parker wants people to know something. Rescue dogs are wonderful, he says. They just need to be given a chance.

"Our family rescued Toby," Parker says. "But he really rescued me."

