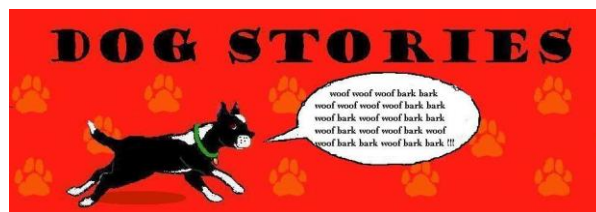


CTYOnline Young Readers' Series for Grades 2 & 3



Dog Stories Sample Assignment

In the *Dogs Stories* theme, students are encouraged to empathize with the joys and sorrows of another species by focusing on the special relationship between dogs and their humans. Each book told from a dog's point of view, the three tales include humor, heartbreak, fantasy, realism, and adventure. *101 Dalmatians* by Dodie Smith, *A Dog's Life: The Autobiography of a Stray* by Ann M. Martin, and *The Good Dog* by Avi.

Designed for children in grades 2 and 3 with a reading of grade 5 or above, students in this critical reading series:

- read three thematically connected, age-appropriate books of increasing difficulty
- participate in online discussions with gifted classmates from Boston to Beijing
- post book related writing assignments such as newspaper articles, diary entries, and letters written from a character's point of view
- learn sophisticated vocabulary words and literary terms with the help of online games and puzzles

Instructors encourage students to read carefully and cite the text to support their points. Students become conscious of the importance of interpreting an author's inferences in understanding plot and character. Students typically read and share written responses every other day (fall, spring, and early summer sessions) or daily (midsummer intensive session). Work is posted in the virtual classrooms at the student's convenience as long as deadlines are met. Parents should review the books in each theme before choosing in order to find the most interesting and appropriate theme for their child.

To give you an idea of the type of assignments involved, the following is the first of ten lessons:

Instructions for Lesson One:

All work is due by the following Sunday at midnight. (That's the end of Sunday, not the beginning!) This means that your assigned reading should be started early and completed by Thursday night--at the latest--to allow you enough time to finish all the assignments (Reading, Quiz, Poll, Blog, and Discussion Posts) by Sunday night.

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").

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. To answer the last two questions, count how many questions you answered correctly without referring to the book. Feel free to click on the links to learn the definitions of literary terms such as "inference," "simile," "alliteration," and "onomatopoeia."

3. Vote your opinion in the [Poll](#).

4. Post ONE of the following blog assignments to the Blog Forum:

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 50-250 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 Mr. Dearly and write a 50-250 word plea for the public's help in the return of your missing dogs, which you will deliver on a local radio show. Include a detailed description of your missing dogs, focusing especially on Pongo and Missis since you know them best. Be sure to describe their personalities as well as their physical appearances. After all, this is radio (no visual images!), and so the listening public will be relying only on your descriptions to recognize and hopefully return your missing Dalmatians.

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

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

b. **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?

c. **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?

d. **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?

e. **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?

f. **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?

Note: You are provided with a list of “Mind-Expanding Vocabulary Words” that you can use to help better understand this book and increase your knowledge of vocabulary words in general.

OPTIONAL -Not required- Fun and Challenges:

- Share your favorite stories and authors with other students in the [Recommended Reading Wiki](#).
- Print out and work on the crossword puzzles that have been provided to help reinforce your knowledge of the "mind-expanding" vocabulary words.
- Play some literary terms review games.