

Fred Stays With Me

By: Nancy Coffelt

Illustrated By: Tricia Tusa

Publisher: Little, Brown Young Readers

Copyright: 2007

Art Medium: Watercolor and ink

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

SUMMARY: A little girl describes the two homes she travels between--her mother's and her father's. Her beloved pet dog, Fred, always stays with her no matter what. When Fred's behavior problems, such as sock-chewing, begin to cause minor problems, the parents decide they no longer want Fred. However, the little girl reminds them that Fred is hers, not theirs.

BOOKTALK: Is there something that is just yours and no one else's, no matter what? That's how his owner, a little girl who travels between her mother's and father's home, feels about Fred, her dog.

AUTHOR:

Nancy Coffelt

Nancy Coffelt an artist. She creates designs for products, works on fine art, and writes and/or illustrates children's books. She lives in Portland, Oregon with her husband, son, and their weiner dogs, Dutch and Maggie.

Other books written and/or illustrated by the author include:

Big, Bigger, Biggest

Pug in a Truck

Dogs in Space

ILLUSTRATOR:

Tricia Tusa

Tricia Tusa was born in 1960 and raised in Houston, Texas. She received a BFA in Studio Art (Painting and Sculpture) from the University of Texas in Austin. Then, she moved to New York City at the age of twenty-one. She was published by the age of twenty-two. While she was in New York, she got her

Masters in Art Therapy. In addition to illustrating children's books, she has worked in schools, learning disability facilities, and psychiatric institutes as an Art Therapist. In addition, she spent several years at M.D. Anderson Cancer Hospital working with teenagers. She now lives in New Mexico.

Other books illustrated by the illustrator:

Lemonade for Sale by Stuart J. Murphy

The Magic Hat by Mem Fox

*The End of the Beginning: Being the Adventures of a Small Snail
(And an Even Smaller Ant)* by Avi

In a Blue Room by Jim Averbeck

Treasure Map by Stuart J. Murphy

Mrs. Spitzer's Garden by Edith Pattou

CHALLENGING WORDS (pronunciation, spelling, defining): Neighbor

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why does the little girl sometimes live with her mom and sometimes live with her dad?
2. Do you have a pet? How is your pet like a friend?
3. Do you think it would be difficult to travel back and forth between your mom's house and your dad's house? How?
4. How did her parents solve the problems they were having with Fred?
5. How does having Fred near make the little girl feel?

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

Language Arts

- Use this book in conjunction with other books on divorce. Discuss how the little girl copes with the situation with your students. Help them brainstorm other ways to make traveling back and forth between your parents' home easier.
- After reading the book aloud to your students, ask them to write a paragraph and explain why "it helps when you have a friend like Fred".

Social Studies

- Discuss the little girl in the book's family life. How is her family different from yours? How is it like yours?
- Discuss the other types of families in your community. How are they like yours? Different from yours?

Science

- After reading the story, discuss Fred's behavior. Is his behavior typical for a dog? Have you ever had a dog that misbehaved? How did you handle the problem?

Life Skills: Friendship, flexibility, responsibility, and caring

INTERNET SITES:

Visit the author's web site at:

<http://www.nancycoffelt.com>

Read an interview with the illustrator at:

<http://www.tinanicholscouryblog.com/2008/04/tricia-tulsa--.html>

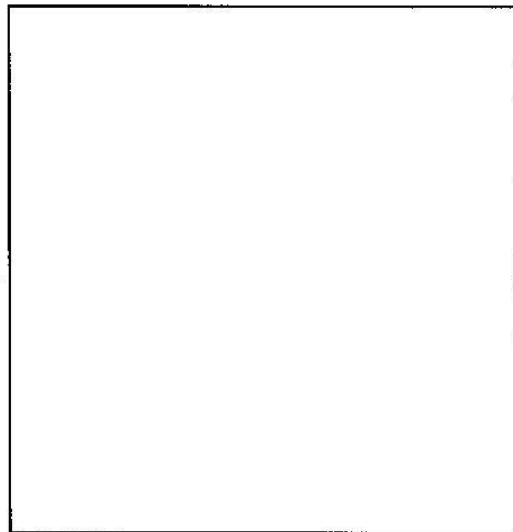
My Favorite Pet

Fred is the little girl's favorite pet and he travels back and forth between homes with her. Sometimes Fred causes trouble for the little girl and her parents. Finish the story below about a pet you've had (or still have).

My Pet's Name

I like my pet
because: _____

A favorite memory
I have about my
pet is:



Draw a picture of your pet