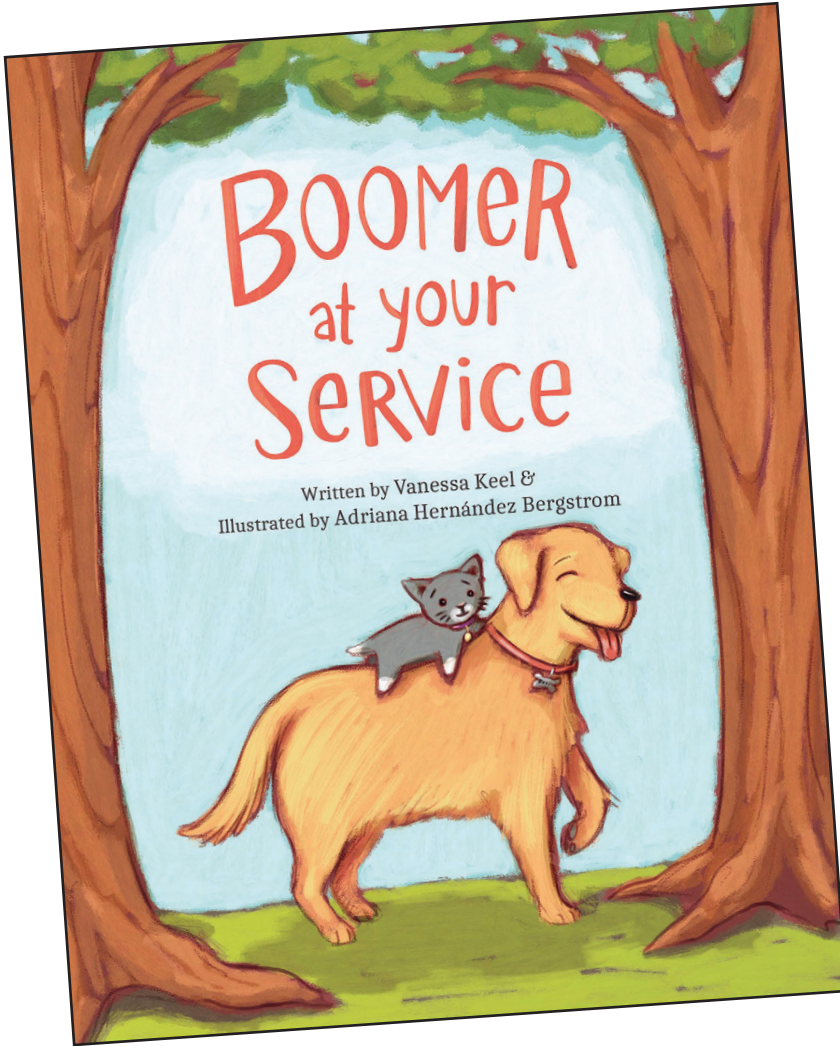


CURRICULUM GUIDE

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BOOMER at your Service

BY

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BERGSTROM



WHEN DISASTER STRIKES at Boomer's service dog graduation day ceremony, he sets off to find a family to help on his own. A series of catastrophes leaves him feeling hopeless, until a little lost kitty helps him discover friendship, his happily-ever-after home, and his special purpose in life.



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The Common Core State Standards addressed by the discussion questions, activities, and worksheets in this guide are noted throughout. For more information on the Common Core, visit corestandards.org.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Unless otherwise noted, all discussion questions meet the following Common Core State Standards: [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1](#)

-  What type of dogs attend Pupperdine Academy?
-  What disrupts the graduation ceremony at Pupperdine Academy? Look closely at the illustrations of the ceremony and describe what Boomer does.
-  What does Boomer's embarrassment cause him to do? Do you think that the others at the ceremony were unhappy with Boomer? Explain your opinion.
-  How does the man with the groceries react when Boomer tries to help him cross the road safely?
-  When Boomer passes by a baseball field, he hears a "CRACK!" What does this sound stand for and what does Boomer do once he hears the sound?
-  Boomer feels rejected when the crowd at the baseball field boos him. What does "rejected" mean? Why do you think that Boomer feels this is the most hurtful rejection of all? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.4](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.4](#)[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.4](#)
-  What does Boomer mean when he wishes for a "forever home"?
-  How does the kitten that Boomer helps in the park lead Boomer to his forever home?
-  How would you describe Cecilia?
-  In what ways does Boomer help his new family?
-  Boomer turns out to be a perfect therapy dog when he visits the patients at Children's Hospital because Boomer can make the kids laugh. What other qualities does Boomer show in the story that would make him a great therapy dog?
-  How is a service dog different from a therapy dog?

ACTIVITIES

SERVICE DOG SAFETY

Design a brochure to help children understand how to interact with service dogs when they meet them in public. Look to the Author's Note section at the end of the story for a list of do's and don'ts. Add illustrations to help children learn the proper way to interact with service dogs.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2



STARRING BOOMER!

Author Vanessa Keel describes service dogs as real-life superheroes. Imagine if Boomer were cast in a superhero movie. What would his costume be? What amazing powers would he have to help those in need? Create a movie poster that advertises a superhero named Boomer. Include the title of the movie and a color illustration of Boomer using his extraordinary powers to help someone in need. Think of a slogan or words that would make audiences want to see the movie.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3

TRAINING SERVICE DOGS

Research one organization that helps train service dogs, such as Merlin's KIDS. Take the information you learn about your selected organization and write a brief report about how the organization began and how it works to provide service dogs for people in need in the community. **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2**

TRACING BOOMER'S JOURNEY

Boomer's story begins at Pupperdine Academy and ends at Children's Hospital. Where does he go in between? Look back through the story to see the order of the other places Boomer visits. Design a map that shows Boomer's journey in the story. Create a symbol for each place and draw a line connecting the various locations in the order in which he visited them.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.2

The discussion questions, activities, and worksheets in this guide were created by Leigh Courtney, Ph.D. She teaches in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both master's and doctoral degrees in education, with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.

Name: _____

EXPECTED / UNEXPECTED

When Boomer left Pupperdine Academy, he wanted to help others. Describe the three times Boomer tried to help, what he expected from each encounter, and the unexpected way the people reacted to his help.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.2

THE MAN WITH THE GROCERIES

WHAT BOOMER DID: _____

WHAT BOOMER EXPECTED: _____

HOW PEOPLE REACTED
TO BOOMER'S "HELP": _____

THE GIRL WITH THE FLOWER

WHAT BOOMER DID: _____

WHAT BOOMER EXPECTED: _____

HOW PEOPLE REACTED
TO BOOMER'S "HELP": _____

THE BASEBALL GAME

WHAT BOOMER DID: _____

WHAT BOOMER EXPECTED: _____

HOW PEOPLE REACTED
TO BOOMER'S "HELP": _____

Name: _____

EXCLAMATION!

Hunt through the story to find examples of when the author of *Boomer at Your Service* punctuates words and phrases with exclamation marks. Find ten of these exclamatory words and phrases and list them below. Practice reading the list of words and phrases with a partner. Remember to read them with expression!

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.1.4.B; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RF.2.4.B

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



Name: _____

CHARACTER WHEEL

Describe Boomer by filling in the character wheel with notes about him that you learned from story events and illustrations.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3

