



Fiction

Oxford Level 9 Pack A

The Boss Dog of Blossom Street

Author: Rita Ray

Range: Animal story

Theme: Overcoming a problem

Teaching Notes authors: Thelma Page and Vicki Yates

Synopsis

When Snap's family moves away from Blossom Street, he is worried that he won't be able to look after it anymore. Then he finds a way to get back to Blossom Street every day – by bus...

Group or guided reading

Introducing the book

- Look together at the cover. Ask the children to suggest where the story takes place.
- Read the title and ask the children who they think the main character will be.
- Read the blurb on the back cover. Were the children right about the main character?
- Look at the pictures on the front and back covers. Ask the children to say what they think will happen in this story.
- Read the author's name and ask the children if they have read other books by this author.

Strategy check

- Ask the children to tell you which strategies they can use to work out new words.
- Remind the children to break any longer words into syllables to help them read it, e.g. find the word 'Saturday' on page 3 line 3, and ask a volunteer to break it into syllables.
- Find a compound word, e.g. 'everywhere' on page 6 line 4. Ask one of the children to break it down into separate words.

Independent reading

Focus: Explain to the children that you want them to think about the following question while they are reading independently: *How does Snap stay Boss Dog of Blossom Street after he has moved away?*

- Observe the strategies the children use when they meet new vocabulary, and prompt them as needed.
- At the end of a chapter encourage the children to recount the main points in the correct sequence.
- Praise the children for reading with expression.

Returning and responding to the text

- When the children have read the whole story, ask them to describe how Snap was able to return to Blossom Street.
- Can they find the page where Snap first thought about getting on a bus?
- Ask: *What did the bus driver think about Snap?* Ask the children to find the evidence in the text.
- *How did the people on Blossom Street react when they saw Snap again?* Ask the children again to find the evidence in the text.

Fiction

- Turn to page 30 and read the last paragraph. Discuss the author's use of 'And' to begin the last sentence. Ask the children to read it again omitting the word 'And'. *Is the effect the same without 'And'?*
- What did the children like or dislike about the story?

Speaking and listening activities

- Discuss the events of the story, and ask the children to suggest reasons for the events.
- Ask the children to find page 30 and think about what might have been written in the newspaper article.
- With the children working in pairs, ask one to take the role of Snap and the other to be a news reporter.
- Ask the 'reporter' to interview Snap for the news article.
- Remind the children to ask questions using 'how' and 'why'.
- Praise children for putting themselves in the role of the characters.

Further reading activities

- Encourage the children to collect and read newspaper or magazine articles that feature pets and animals.
- Ask the children to find examples of spoken words (quotations) in the articles and to make a note of the verbs used to describe speech.
- Then they could look through the story again and write down any verbs other than 'said' that the author uses to describe speech.
- Prompt the children to read the book in pairs, each taking turns to read the dialogue using an appropriately expressive tone.

Suggestions for using ICT

- Ask the children to refer to the speaking and listening activity and choose parts of their 'interviews' as quotations for a newspaper article about Snap. Ask them to write their quotations on a computer.
- Then ask them to use a word processor to write the articles from the writing activity in the style of a newspaper, i.e. changing the size of the font, using columns.
- Finally, ask them to choose one quotation from their selection for the article and drag-and-drop it into their article.

Writing activities

- Remind the children about their role-play interviews.
- Ask them to make notes to use as a basis for a newspaper article about Snap.
- Ask some of the children to share their notes with the class. Can they suggest sentences that could open and close their article?
- Ask the children to write their notes as a short paragraph for a newspaper.

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