

People and their pets — six books, care makes the bond

Choosing, rescuing, understanding, losing, and caring show how an animal becomes part of a relationship.

six in sequence

Grades 2–3

TL07–TL09 where levelled

267 min listening

8 books in the collection

You are the teacher.

You know your students and what they need today.

Use what works. Change what doesn't. Make it yours.

Students compare pet relationships through fit, rescue, care, misunderstanding, separation, and return. The set includes realistic fiction, humour, and narrative nonfiction so that pets are not presented as a decorative topic shelf.

The question that runs through all six

Why do people and animals become important to one another?

Standards status

This curated reading sequence is not itself a region-specific standards claim. Review the documentary status on any linked lesson plan.

The sequence

1



Start here.

Spare Dog Parts

Book ID 7383

Alison Hughes

Gr K-2

Humor

TL08

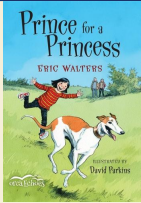
AD570L

3 min

A child describes a mismatched dog as exactly the right pet. It opens with affection and the idea that importance is not based on perfection.

Ask What makes this dog the right pet even when the parts seem mismatched?

2



Now build the idea.

Prince for a Princess

Book ID 5918

Eric Walters

Gr K-3

Realistic Fiction

TL08

550L

36 min

A retired racing greyhound and a Chihuahua become family through rescue and care. It adds animal history and adoption to the question of how a relationship begins.

Ask What changes when an animal is treated as family rather than as a possession?

3

Now make care the work.

Hamsters Don't Glow in the Dark

Book ID 5644

Trina Wiebe

Gr K-3

Realistic Fiction

TL08

560L

101 min

A child who desperately wants a pet faces the practical responsibility of a class hamster at home. It tests desire against the work and uncertainty of actual care.

Ask Which responsibilities were easy to imagine before the hamster arrived, and which were not?

4

Now make it harder.

Bagels Come Home

Book ID 7111

Joan Betty Stuchner

Gr 2-3

Humor

TL07

500L

A runaway puppy creates chaos before returning to the people who care for him. It adds separation and the difficulty of keeping a relationship safe.

Ask What does Bagels' return reveal about the bond that the chaos hides?

5

Widen the question.

The Penguin of Ilha Grande: From Animal Rescue to Extraordinary Friendship

Book ID 8057

Shannon Earle

Gr K-2

Informational / Non-Fiction

TL07

AD540L

5 min

A rescued penguin repeatedly returns to the person who saved him in a real-life animal friendship. It complicates the pet category with a wild animal relationship grounded in rescue and return.

Ask How is this relationship like a pet relationship, and where should the comparison stop?

6

End by putting it together.

Any Pet Will Do

Book ID 4680

Nancy Shouse

Gr 3-6

Humor

TL09

650L

122 min

A boy tests many ideas of a perfect pet and learns that the best companion is the one that fits the relationship. It invites students to revise surface criteria after comparing every earlier bond.

Ask What should 'fit' mean after reading the other five relationships?

Also in the collection

The Night I Followed the Dog

Book ID 4769 Nina Laden

A dog's imagined secret life extends the idea that people may not fully know an animal, but its fantasy emphasis is less grounded in care.



Lost and Found, Story 3: Yuki

Book ID 4709 Jim LaMarche

A stray-dog and missing-pet plot extends belonging and finding home, but the core already has rescue and return.

Teaching this set

Keep affection and responsibility together.

Ask students to look for what each person provides and what the animal provides. Keep the conversation inclusive of students who do not have, want, or safely interact with pets. Read the six in order: Start here. Now build the idea. Now make care the work. Now make it harder. Widen the question. End by putting it together. Across three relationships, what makes the bond important to both sides, and what responsibilities belong to the person?

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