

De Pasquale Publications
Primary Grades Lesson Plan - "Jessie"
Speaking, Listening, Reading, Writing



Discussion Questions for students:

Do you have a pet? (dog, cat, fish, bird, snake, etc.)

Tell about your pet (name, type, breed, describe your pet, indoor, outdoor)

What is your pet's name? Who named your pet?

How did you get your pet?

Ask students who do not have a pet what type of pet they would like to have.

Background information about the story:

"Jessie" is a story about a dog who was a stray. She ends up at a shelter..

Discuss the words "stray" and "shelter" to be sure students understand the meanings

Read the story "Jessie"

Give time for student feedback

Review the parts of the story: beginning, middle and end

Beginning: Jessie was described - her color, size, ears, face and personality

Middle: she escaped, was picked up by animal control, went to the shelter, and wondered if she would ever be adopted

End: her forever family adopted her and she was happy

Have students pick a partner or work in small groups and tell another student about their pet or a pet they would like to have. They may also want to tell about a friend or family member's pet.

Start with a description, then how they found each other, and what they are like, now

Some students may have had a pet pass away. Take time to briefly talk about that, but try not to dwell on it too much.

After some sharing time, ask volunteers to share their stories with the whole group.

Discuss setting: Where did Jessie's story take place? Your story needs to have a setting. Have students share possible settings for their stories.

Share examples/sentence starters to start off the stories: "It all started when...", or "Once when I was..."

Next, have students share the "middle" of their story. Identify the most exciting part: how or when they found their pet. How did they feel, what did they do, what was their first reaction?

The ending of their story would be their life, now, with that pet. What has changed?

How is their life different/better?

Created by: A. De Pasquale, De Pasquale Publications, June 2018

De Pasquale Publications
Primary Grades Lesson Plan - “Jessie”
Speaking, Listening, Reading, Writing

(Continued)

Next, have students write a story. Depending on skill levels, mention complete sentences, paragraph formation, vivid descriptions (3 short paragraphs)

Stories can be bound in a book, shared, and made into a project with illustration(s).



Created by: A. De Pasquale, De Pasquale Publications, June 2018

De Pasquale Publications

Upper Elementary Grades Lesson Plan - "Jessie" Speaking, Listening, Reading, Writing



Discussion Questions for students:

Do you have a pet? (dog, cat, fish, bird, snake, etc.)

Tell about your pet (name, type, breed, describe your pet, indoor, outdoor)

What is your pet's name? Who named your pet? Any interesting stories about your pet's name?

How did you get your pet? Any interesting stories about how you got your pet?

Ask students who do not have a pet what type of pet they would like to have, or may have had.

Any family members or friends have a pet they would like to talk about?

Background information about the story:

"Jessie" is a story about a dog who was a stray. She ends up at a shelter. Possibly explore the idea of over breeding and why there are lots of dogs in shelters. What can we do?

Discuss the words "stray" and "shelter" to be sure students understand the meanings

Read the story "Jessie"

Give time for student feedback

Depending on age, discuss: stereotype, discrimination, fair vs. unfair. How do these relate to the story?

Talk about letter format:

What are the main parts of a friendly letter?

Date, greeting, body paragraph(s), closing

Begin with either an interesting story about your pet or a friend's pet or family member's pet (how they got their name), (a funny story about something that happened), or something you may have in common with Jessie or her story (a shelter adoption, a similar breed), a book, movie or similar story you want to share.

Activity: Write a letter to Jessie, or to the author, using proper friendly letter format.

The letters can be sent or written online on the website and sent electronically.