



MY DOG



WOOF

Online Edition By
Marguerite & Dr. Len
Illustrated By

INTRODUCTION

My Dog Woof is the interactive focus of a multicultural interdisciplinary curriculum unit for elementary students in the *primary* grades of school or learning at home. For *intermediate* elementary, middle school, and high school students, it is an exhibition opportunity for their developing artistic skills whereby they illustrate a story for younger 'reading partners'. The book is also an example of desktop publishing. Using a school or home personal computer for typesetting, along with a scanner and printer (or photocopier) for reproducing original art by children, you can produce books of your own, to hand bind and give as gifts to friends and relatives.

Most of *Woof's* activities take place in the present; however, the dream sequence leads a young reader into the future. While descriptive words stimulate children's imaginations, the absence of specific descriptive details encourages individual creativity. The book is completed as the characters, activities, and environments are personally illustrated from each child's unique perspective, experiences and cultural heritage.

In process, our story is considered as a whole, first, and may be used as a 'read-aloud' for a teacher or parent to share with one child or a group. Follow-up discussion helps identify a range of possibilities for enhancing the described story with personal illustrations. Finally, 'show-and-tell' sharing of pictures offers opportunities to develop understanding of children's diverse interpretations of similar stimuli. Bilingual or ESL students can consider re-telling this story in another of the world's many languages (for our further learning).

TEACHER/PARENT SUGGESTIONS

The PDF file of this book may be downloaded for free by clicking the last link on the educational website SpaceRocksWithDrLen.com, using Adobe Acrobat Reader, and then printed with your personal computer's sheet-fed inkjet or laser printer. Each page of text is printed on one side only of 8 ½ x 11 inch sheets of paper (or card stock), leaving the blank side for personal illustrations of each event in our story.

A child can prepare one illustration at a time until she/he has hand-illuminated a complete volume of her/his own, over a sequence of twenty-eight story experiences. Individual children, in a group, could create single-page illustrations to be included in a class, family, or library copy of the book. Students working cooperatively on the same picture might each prepare a portion of a shared illustration. Everyone is welcome to write and illustrate sequels involving our dog in future adventures. Possible past events from "puppyhood" could even be imagined. *Woof* may encourage others to write and illustrate their own original stories. *Woof* can be used by itself and as part of a larger study unit about pets or families.

Illustration media possibilities include crayons, colored pencils, graphite pencils, and pastels. If you print your copy of the book on heavier stock, you can also apply watercolor markers and watercolor paints, or anything else that will not soak through the pages.

Original story 1979, Printed Edition 1998, Edited by Kathleen Hayes, Reading Consultant
John Brown Francis School, Warwick, Rhode Island, USA

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OUR STORY

My dog Woof is big and fluffy with long ears and wide feet.
Woof likes to run across fields and chase birds, but he does *not* catch them.
He even runs through gardens and chases rabbits! He doesn't catch *them*, either.
Woof also likes to lie in the cool shade of trees near a pond.
On rainy days, he has to stay in the house and look out the window.
One dark stormy afternoon when I went to bring in the mail,
Woof pushed by me and hurried down the stairs.
He chased a cat around the yard and through some bushes in the pouring rain.
The cat jumped up and over a tall fence to get away.
Woof splashed into puddles and rolled around in a garden.
Flowers and vegetables went everywhere! His fur got all wet and muddy.
Later, when I opened the door to get the newspaper, he dashed back inside.
My family was not happy because Woof left dirty paw prints all over the floors.
He climbed into a large soft chair to take a nap and made it a mess.
"Woof needs a bath" said our parents. "Fill your small pool with lots of soapy water."
My brother and sister helped me lift Woof into all those bubbles.
Together, we scrubbed and washed him until he was clean.
I sprayed the suds off Woof with cold water from the hose.
Then Woof sprayed all of us as he shook the water off his fur.
Finally, we dried him (*and ourselves*) with brightly colored towels.
Soon Woof was fluffy again. He was also hungry, from all the activity and that *cold* water,
so we served him dinner in a deep round dish.
After eating, he went to sleep in his own bed; the one with his name on the side.
Woof dreamed about chasing cats and rabbits and birds and playing in the garden.
Then he dreamed of what he'd like to do tomorrow.
Let's see, would he dig in the sand at the beach by the sea?
Maybe he could join the boys and girls who play ball in the empty lot down the street.
Perhaps he might just keep warm in the sunshine.
But, Woof knew one thing for sure; if it rained tomorrow, he would have to stay in the house.

**My dog Woof
is BIG and fluffy
with long ears
and w-i-d-e feet.**

**Woof likes to
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and chase birds,
but
he does *not* catch them.**

**He even
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and chases
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He doesn't catch *them*, either.

**Woof also likes
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The cat
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**Flowers and vegetables
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**His fur
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**My family 
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*“Fill your small pool
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**Let's see, would he
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**Maybe he could join
the boys and girls
who play ball
in the empty lot
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**Perhaps he might
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**But, Woof knew one
thing for sure;
if it rained tomorrow,
*he would have to
stay in the house.***

THE END

"woof" 

CAST OF CHARACTERS

LEN WEST earned his Ph.D. in Educational Studies at the University of Connecticut, plus master's and bachelor's degrees in Art Education and English from Rhode Island College. He has over twenty years experience in higher education as a: professor, student teacher supervisor, cooperating teacher, program director, and faculty advisor working with undergraduate and graduate students in Rhode Island, Connecticut and Wyoming teacher certification programs. In the public schools, his community service work with elementary and secondary students includes, "Dr. Len Reads Aloud" and "Can You Picture This?" workshops, in addition to science education with NASA Moon Rocks, NASA Space-Exposed Seeds, meteorites, Starshine 1, 2, 3 space satellites, and dinosaur fossils.

MARGUERITE HARDISTY graduated from Rhode Island College in Elementary Education. She has over thirty years experience teaching in the Warwick, Rhode Island public schools, the federal Project Head Start, and as an educational consultant. She earned her Master Gardener certification at the University of Rhode Island and is a long-time volunteer team leader of Master Gardeners in the greenhouse and twenty-one gardens on the grounds of the Rhode Island Veterans Home.

KATHLEEN HAYES is a graduate of the University of Rhode Island and earned her master's degree in Reading from Rhode Island College. She is an elementary school Reading Consultant in the Warwick School Department.

WOOF graduated *magna cum loudly* from the Dogspaws School.

The nicest experiences, in developing this book, involved working with the students, teachers, and families that are the life of our free public schools for all boys and girls in the United States of America.

Marguerite & Dr. Len are available by E-mailing: AskTheTeachers@yahoo.com

