

Lesson 6: The Best Pet Award

Getting Started

✿ Questions to Explore

- How do living things influence or change the environment?
- How does the weather affect people, plants, and animals?

📖 Facts and Definitions

- Living things can change their environments to make themselves more comfortable.
- **Mood** is a state of mind or a feeling.
- **Pleasure** is a feeling of enjoyment.
- **Damage** means harm or injury to a person or property.
- **Admit** means to tell the truth about something.
- **Fond** means you like someone.
- **Miserable** means unhappy or uncomfortable.

⦿ Skills

- Read and comprehend figurative language in text. (LA)
- Recall main ideas, facts, and details from a text. (LA)
- Make inferences and draw conclusions from a text. (LA)
- Increase oral and written vocabulary by listening, discussing, and composing texts when responding to literature that is read and heard. (LA)
- Read critically to interpret and evaluate. (LA)

✂ Materials

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| • <i>Tornado</i> by Betsy Byars, Doron Ben-Ami | • journal |
| • construction paper | • note cards |
| • crayons or colored pencils | • scissors |
| • glue | • sentence strips |

Introduction

Tell your child that in this chapter Tornado has an encounter with a cat. Ask her what she knows about the relationship between cats and dogs.

Reading and Questions

Ask your child to read Chapter 5 aloud. Discuss how animals get on a schedule according to patterns that are set up in their environment. Many dogs will wait for their owner to come home at the same time each day or wait at the back door to go on a walk at the same time each day. Even though animals can't tell time, they know when things happen at the same time each day in their environment.

1. How did Five-Thirty get his name?

He showed up every day at 5:30 for food.

2. Why does Tornado dig a hole under the trees?

To keep cool. Discuss the fact that animals often change their environment to make it more comfortable. The earth is cooler beneath the surface, so a hole beneath two trees would be a very comfortable place in the heat of the day.

3. Have you ever changed your environment in any way to make it more comfortable?

Turn on a fan, start a fire in the winter, put a blanket or pillow on a hard floor to make it more comfortable, etc.

4. Why do you think Five-Thirty gets in Tornado's hole?

Answers will vary.

5. What does Tornado say to Five-Thirty?

Get out, please.

6. When Five-Thirty goes out, why does Tornado dig more dirt out of the hole?

He wants to get the feel and the smell of the cat out of his hole.

7. What does Pete mean when he says, "Even if he dug all the way to China....when he got there it would still be Five-Thirty"?

No matter how much Tornado dug, he would never be able to get the memory of Five-Thirty out of the hole.

Activities

Activity 1: Journal Entry

Your child can write and illustrate her chapter summary in her journal.

Activity 2: Vocabulary Sentences

Ask your child to write each of the following vocabulary words on a note card. Then ask her to order the cards in alphabetical order. Look up and discuss the meaning of each vocabulary word.

- mood (p.29)
- pleasure (p.30)
- damage (p.35)
- admitted (p.40)
- fond (p.40)
- miserable (p. 42)

Put the sentences listed below on long sentence strips of paper (16" x 4"). Leave a blank for the vocabulary cards. Your child can read each sentence and place the note card with the correct word to fill in the blank.

- I was in a bad _____ when we left the park.
- The tornado did a lot of _____ to our house.
- I take _____ in going to the beach.
- I was very _____ of my new pet.
- He _____ that he had told a lie.
- The day was so hot it felt _____.

Activity 3: World's Best Pet Award

For this activity, your child will design an award badge for Tornado. Let her cut out the pattern provided on the "World's Best Pet Award" (Option 1 or 2) page and trace it onto construction paper. The ribbons can be cut from different colors of construction paper. In the circle of the badge she can write, "World's Best Pet: Tornado." On each ribbon she can write different reasons that Tornado is a good pet and then glue the ribbons on the badge. Choose Option 1 or 2.

Option 1

For this option, your child will use the pattern on the "World's Best Pet Award" (Option 1) page.

Once your child has cut out her ribbons, write the following sentence starters on each ribbon for your child to complete. (They are also listed on the pattern).

- Tornado is the smartest dog because _____
- Tornado is the funniest dog because _____
- Tornado is the nicest dog because _____
- Tornado is the _____ dog because _____

Option 2 (Advanced)

For this option, your child will use the "World's Best Pet Award" (Option 2) page. These ribbons do not have sentence starters. Encourage your child to go beyond "he is nice or friendly" to give specific examples from the story — for example, "He is fun because he likes to run with Pete," or "He is smart because he can play card tricks."

Wrapping Up

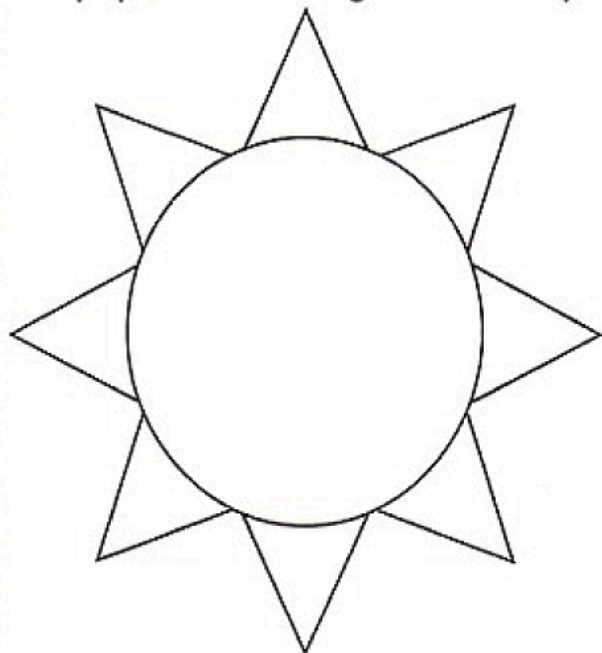
Ask your child to describe some ways that living things can change their environments. Ask her what can make an environment uncomfortable (heat, cold, wind, or hazardous weather).

Life Application

To extend this activity, encourage your child to make a badge for a sibling or other family member such as *World's Best Dad, Sister, or Grandma*. On the ribbons she can write sentences describing why the person is the best.

World's Best Pet Award

Directions: Design a badge for Tornado, tracing this pattern onto construction paper and writing reasons why Tornado is a good pet on the ribbons.



Tornado is the _____
_____ because

Tornado is the nicest dog because

Tornado is the funniest dog because

Tornado is the smartest dog because

World's Best Pet Award

Directions: Design a badge for Tornado, tracing this pattern onto construction paper and writing reasons why Tornado is a good pet on the ribbons.

