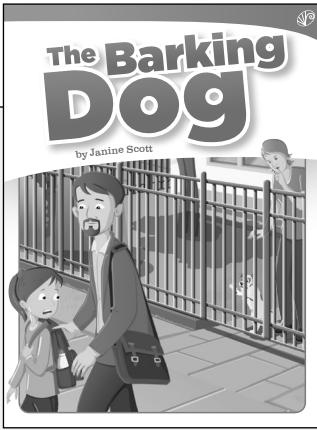


# The Barking Dog



Running words: 438

## Book Summary

This story looks at the fear some people have of dogs and how to overcome that fear. Hera lives next door to Mrs Frost, whose small dog Lexi barks at everyone and everything. Even though Lexi is little, she scares Hera. One day, Hera hears a change in Lexi's bark. She looks over the fence and sees that Mrs Frost has hurt her ankle and needs Hera's help. Hera is worried about coming near Lexi, but she wants to help her neighbour. Lexi senses that Hera is there to help Mrs Frost and stops barking. Over time, Hera gets to know Lexi and learns that Lexi barks for different reasons. In the end, Hera and Mrs Frost take Lexi to a dog show together, and Hera feels comfortable around not only Lexi but also the other dogs.

## Themes

Character education, Neighbourhood, Overcoming obstacles, Pets

## Features of the Book

- The information contained in the illustrations
- Content words for discussion: *barking, proud, scared*
- Phonics and phonemic awareness: consonant blends – *fr* and *pr*; vowel blends – *around/ground/house/outside/proud/sounded*

## Strategies

*The Barking Dog* introduces and reinforces the following strategies:

- making connections
- determining author's purpose
- asking and answering questions

## Materials

- Copies of the Sentence Strips, reproducible for this book, cut and ready for use
- Copies of the BM, pencils

by Janine Scott

## Introducing the Text

Begin by asking the students to think of times they have been frightened by a dog or other animal. Write their answers in a list.

- *Why were you frightened of the animal?*
- *Did you overcome your fear of the animal? How?*

## Reading the Text

Hand one book to each student. Ensure that the content words (*barked, proud, scare*) are integrated naturally into the discussion. An understanding of these terms will help the students appreciate the author's purpose and the decisions the characters make in the story.

Encourage the students to use the information in the illustrations and text to make predictions, then to revise or confirm these as you work through the book.

## Cover

Together, read the title and the name of the author on the cover and the title page. Look at the illustrations.

- *Who is on the cover?* (a girl and her father, a woman behind a gate with a dog)
- *Where are these people?* (on a neighbourhood street)
- *What do you predict this story is about?* (a dog that barks too much)

## Pages 2 to 3

- *How can you tell there is a problem in this girl's neighbourhood?* (The dog is barking at her and a man passing on the street, both of whom look worried.)

Read the text together. Confirm that Lexi barks at everyone and everything in the neighbourhood and that this makes Hera afraid of her.

## Pages 4 to 5

- *What does Hera's expression tell you?* (that she is worried about and afraid of Lexi)

Read the text together. Confirm that Hera is afraid of Lexi even when Lexi is behind the fence and when Mrs Frost says that Lexi is friendly. Have a student point out the speech marks. Remind the students that these marks indicate who is speaking in the story.

## Pages 6 to 7

- *What do you think is happening on these pages?* (Hera is playing outside when she looks over the fence and sees Mrs Frost on the ground.)

Read the text together. Confirm that Hera has noticed changes in Lexi's barking that lead her to look over the fence and see Mrs Frost on the ground.

- *What do you think has happened to Mrs Frost?* (She has hurt herself.)

## Pages 8 to 9

- *What is Hera doing?* (coming to help Mrs Frost)
- *Why is Mrs Frost holding Lexi by the collar?* (to reassure Hera that Lexi won't hurt her)
- *What does Hera's expression tell you?* (that she is still wary of Lexi)

Read the text together. Confirm that Mrs Frost has hurt her ankle and needs help and that Hera overcomes her fear in order to help Mrs Frost.

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## Page 10

- *What is Hera doing?* (helping Mrs Frost walk)
- *What is Lexi doing?* (walking calmly next to Hera and Mrs Frost)

Read the text together. Confirm that Hera is helping Mrs Frost and that Lexi seems to understand the situation and is behaving calmly and quietly.

## Page 11

- *What is Hera doing now?* (petting Lexi through the fence)
- *What does her expression tell you?* (She is no longer afraid of Lexi.)

Read the text together. Confirm that the experience of helping Mrs Frost and being with Lexi has helped Hera overcome her fear of Lexi.

## Page 12

- *Do you think Hera has overcome her fear of dogs for good? Why or why not?* (Yes, she looks happy and relaxed around Lexi.)

Read the text together. Confirm that Hera didn't feel scared around any of the dogs at the dog show.

- *Why might Hera feel proud of herself as well as of Lexi?* (because she overcame her fear of dogs)

## Revisiting the Text

- Revisit the list of animals the students made at the beginning of the story. Have the students compare the methods they used to overcome their fears of these animals with how Hera overcame her fear of dogs. Then have students think about the author's purpose in writing this story. Who might the author have been trying to help with this story? (people afraid of dogs or other animals)
- Find and list the "fr" and "pr" consonant blends in the story. With the students, add any other words they know that start with these blends.
- Write the words *around/ground/house/outside/proud/sounded* on the board. With the students, create a list of other words that contain the "ou" vowel blend.

## Following Up

- Encourage the students to imagine they are meeting a new dog of which they are wary. Have them suggest a list of questions they would want to ask the dog's owner before they approach it. For example, they might ask: Does your dog like to be petted? Does anything frighten your dog? May I approach your dog? How should I do so? and so on.
- Give the students copies of the BM for this story. They can fill in the timeline with events from the story.