



Running words: 380

Book Summary

This story looks at how even the perfect job can have advantages and disadvantages. Petunia owns a pet shop. She loves working with animals, but wishes she didn't have to sell them. She would rather keep them all. In the story, Petunia and her helper, Pete, advise some customers on finding pets that are perfect for them. In the end, Pete helps Petunia solve her problem by finding her a perfect pet, too.

Themes

Careers, Pets

Features of the Book

- The information contained in the illustrations
- Content words for discussion: *customers, perfect, sell*
- Phonics and phonemic awareness: consonant blend – *sh*; short vowel sounds – *apartment/checked/opened/pet/Petunia/sell/them/there*

Strategies

The Perfect Pet introduces and reinforces the following strategies:

- making connections;
- determining author's purpose;
- summarising.

Materials

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

The Perfect Pet

by Feana Tu'akoi

Introducing the Text

Begin by asking the students about any pets they own. Write their answers in a list.

- *What pets do you own?*
- *What activities do you like to do with your pets?*

Reading the Text

Hand one book to each student. Ensure that the content words (*customers, perfect, sell*) 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.

- *Where are the people on the cover and the title page? (in a pet shop)*
- *What do you predict this story is about? (choosing a pet)*

Pages 2 to 3

- *What animals do you see in the pet shop? (birds, turtles, fish, rabbits, rats, puppies, kittens)*

Read the text together. Have a student point out the speech marks on the page. Remind the students that these marks indicate who is speaking in the story. Then have them summarise the shop owner's feelings about the pets and her business.

Page 4

- *What is happening on this page? (Petunia is opening her shop.)*
- Read the text together. Confirm that Petunia is welcoming customers into her shop.
- *How does Petunia make her customers feel welcome? (greet them, helps them find a pet)*

Page 5

- *What is happening on this page? (Petunia and Pete are showing a customer a kitten.)*
- Read the text together. Confirm that Petunia and Pete are trying to help Grandma Ann find the perfect pet. Have the students summarise what Grandma Ann is looking for in the perfect pet.
- *What pet would you suggest for Grandma Ann?*

Page 6

- *Which animal is Pete showing Grandma Ann now? (a puppy)*
- Read the text together. Confirm that Grandma Ann has decided to buy a puppy.
- *Did you agree that a puppy is the perfect pet for Grandma Ann?*

Page 7

- *What is happening on this page? (Petunia and Pete are showing some customers a puppy.)*
- Read the text together. Confirm that Petunia and Pete are trying to help Jake and his father find the perfect pet. Have the students summarise what Jake is looking for in the perfect pet.
- *Which pet would you suggest for Jake?*

The Perfect Pet

Page 8

- Which animal is Pete showing Jake now? (a rat)

Read the text together. Confirm that Jake has decided to buy a rat.

- Did you agree that a rat is the perfect pet for Jake?

Page 9

- What is Petunia doing? (holding a turtle)
- What is Pete doing? (counting money)

Read the text together. Have the students restate Petunia's mixed feelings about selling animals in her shop.

- How do you think Petunia could solve her problem?

Pages 10 to 11

- What is happening on these pages? (Pete is talking to Petunia and showing her the birds.)

Read the text together. Confirm that Pete is suggesting Petunia could keep one pet. Have the students summarise why Pete thinks a parrot is the perfect pet for Petunia.

- Would you have chosen a parrot as the perfect pet for Petunia?

Page 12

- Do you think Petunia agrees with Pete's suggestion about keeping a parrot as a pet? (Yes, she is holding the parrot and smiling.)

Read the text together. Confirm that Petunia thinks a parrot is the perfect pet for her.

Revisiting the Text

- Revisit the list of pets that the students made. Ask them how they would feel if they had to sell their pet. Have them discuss how their feelings are similar or different from the way Petunia feels in the story about selling the animals in her shop.
- Find and list the “sh” consonant blends in the story. With the students, add any other words they know that contain this blend.
- Write the words *apartment/checked/opened/pet/Petunia/sell/them/there* on the board, and, with the students, create a list of other words that contain the short “e” sound.

Following Up

- Encourage the students to think about the author's purpose in this story. Ask if they think there is a perfect job, or if jobs often have advantages and disadvantages. Use Petunia's career choice as an example. Owning a pet shop allows her to work with animals, which she loves, but she can't keep them all, which makes her sad.
- Give the students copies of the BM for this story. They can cut out the pictures of the pet owners from the story and paste them in the circles next to the correct characters' names. Then they can use information from the story to write about the perfect pet for each character.