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Social Studies

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# A Puppy Raiser



by Rosa Lester

| Genre                | Comprehension Skills and Strategy  |
|----------------------|--|
| Narrative nonfiction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sequence</li><li>• Main Idea</li><li>• Summarize</li></ul> |

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by Rosa Lester



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Have you ever seen a dog like this? It is a guide dog. A guide dog helps people who cannot see. Guide dogs help them walk on busy streets. Guide dogs even know to stop at the top of stairs.





Sally ran in the door. She had heard about people who raise guide dogs. Sally loves helping people. She loves dogs too.

"Mom," said Sally, "I want to raise a puppy to be a guide dog."

"Hmm," said Sally's mother. "Tell me what you know about it."



Before dogs can become guide dogs, they need to learn how to behave. They start learning when they are puppies. People who teach these puppies and take care of them are called puppy raisers.

You will read about a girl who wants to be a puppy raiser.





“Well,” said Sally, “a puppy raiser gets a new puppy and keeps it at home. A puppy raiser gives the puppy lots of love so that it will know how to love people.”

“Hmm,” said her mother. “You are good at giving love. You could teach a puppy that.”



“There’s more,” said Sally. “A puppy raiser must help the puppy understand things like *sit* and *stay*. A guide dog should always obey.”

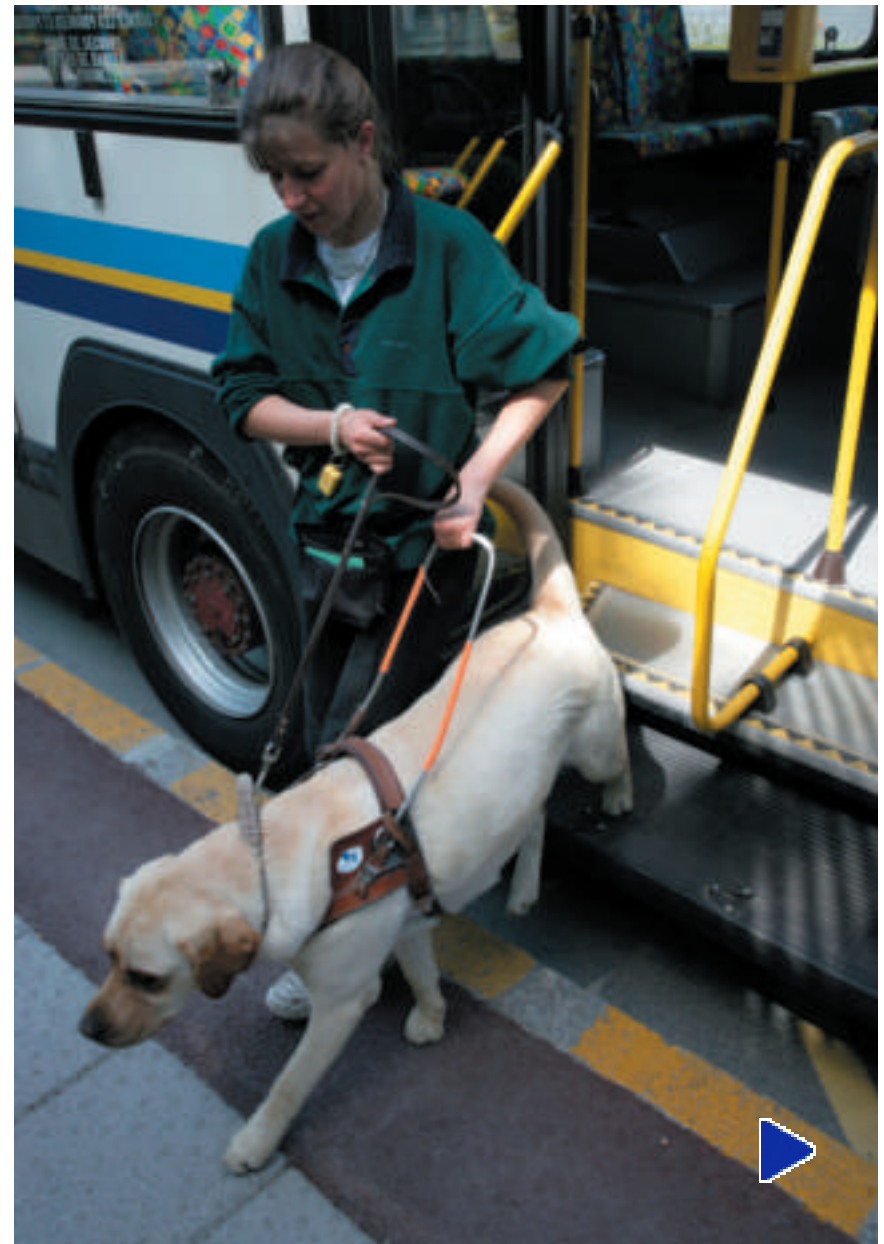
“Hmm,” said her mother. “You are good at doing what you are told. You could teach a puppy that.”





"A guide dog will help its owner travel," said Sally. "The puppy must get used to cars, trains, and buses."


"Hmm," said her mother. "You are good at traveling. You could teach a puppy that."



"A guide dog will go to many places with its owner. It should learn to be around many people," Sally said. "A puppy raiser will take the puppy to meet new people."

"Hmm," said her mother. "You are good at meeting new people. You could teach a puppy that."



 Sally's mother thought for a moment. Then she said, "What happens when the puppy gets older?"

"When the puppy is 13 to 18 months old, it goes back to the guide dog center. There it gets more training. Then the puppy is given to a new owner," said Sally.



It was cold. Sally's mother put wood on the fire in the fireplace. She said, "Won't you be sad when it's time to give the dog back?"

"Yes," Sally said. "But knowing that my dog will help someone else will make me feel better."

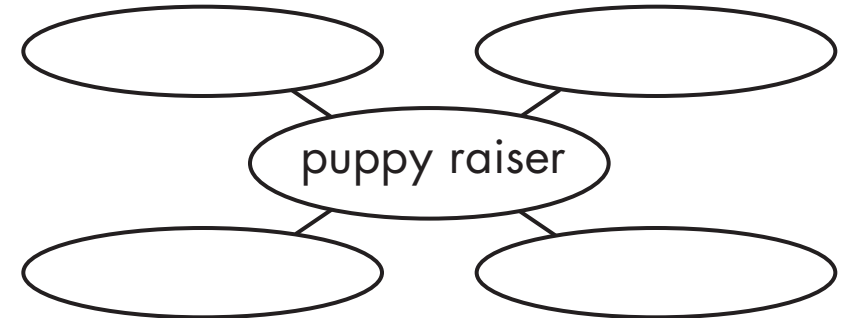




## Think and Share

Read Together

1. Make a chart like the one below.  
Write four things Sally tells her mother she can do as a puppy raiser.



2. Write a few sentences. Tell what a guide dog does.
3. Use each of the vocabulary words in a sentence: *door*, *loved*, *should*, and *wood*.
4. Would you like to raise a guide dog? Why or why not?



"So," said Sally, "may I be a puppy raiser?"

Sally's mother took a long look at Sally. What would her mother say?

"Sally," said her mother. "I think you would be a great puppy raiser."

