

MAX TALKS TO ME

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TIME: 45 minutes (reading and discussion - 25; activity - 20)

MATERIALS: Anchor text (“Max Talks to Me”)

KEY CONCEPTS

- How do dogs communicate? How do people communicate?
- What emotions do dogs feel?
- What does friendship between a dog and a person look like?

BEFORE READING:

- How do you think dogs communicate? What does communication look like between a person and a dog? What does “body language” mean?
- What emotions do we experience when we play with our friends? What emotions do you think dogs experience?

DURING READING:

- On the page that begins, “When I get his leash,” ask, “What do you think is happening in this picture?” “How do you think Max feels in this picture?” “How do you know?”
- On the page with the boy and Max in the grass, ask, “How do you think the boy is feeling?” “How do you think Max is feeling?” “What do you think their body language tells us?”
- On the page that begins “With his brown eyes, he looked into my sadness” ask, “What do you notice about Max’s eyes?” “What do you think Max is trying to tell the little boy with his eyes?”

AFTER READING:

- Ask, “What emotions did Max experience throughout this story?” On one page, the boy says Max feels proud. Discuss, “How do you think the boy feels on that page?” “Do you think you could ever tell whether a dog feels proud? What would this emotion look like in a dog?”
- Ask, “How is listening, observing, or paying attention part of communication?” “How is paying attention and listening important in friendship?”

ACTIVITIES:

Writing Activity:

- “If I was a dog for a day, I would...” Encourage students to include illustrations and try to match the dog body language to what is happening in their story.
- For example, “If I was a dog for a day, I would go to the dog park and play.” [Picture of a dog doing a play bow or looking happy/excited].
 - “After the dog park, I would go to my favorite pet store to get yummy treats.” [Picture of a dog with a wagging tail/ relaxed mouth.]
 - “On the way to the pet store, I might see a huge truck that scared me.” [Picture of a dog who is frightened.] “At night I’d curl up with my human brother while he read books.” [Picture of a happy/content dog curled up.]

AT THE END OF THE LESSON:

Ask students to reflect on these questions. Try this with the whole group, in a sharing circle, or ask students to fill out index cards.

- How did you feel about today’s book and discussion?
- Did today’s book and discussion change how you think about anything in your life?
- What did you learn from today’s book and discussion that you didn’t know before?

**DON'T FORGET TO REPORT YOUR READING:**

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