

LESSON PLAN: BUDDY – THE FIRST SEEING EYE DOG

Written by Eva Moore / Illustrated by Don Bolognese



Objectives:

- Students will be able to explain how Buddy became the first seeing-eye dog.
- Students will be able to explain how the Seeing Eye School became the first school to train guide dogs in America.
- Students will be able to understand the importance of guide dogs for people with visual impairments.

New York State ELA Learning Standards:

First Grade: 1-7, 9, 11

Second Grade: 1-5, 7, 11

Third Grade: 1-7, 11

Materials:

Buddy: The First Seeing Eye Dog, Nonfiction Notes graphic Organizer, chart paper, additional web sites and books given at the end of the lesson plan.

Vocabulary:

frisky	German shepherd	Swiss Alps	Dorothy Eustis
Germany	harness	soldiers	battle
Jack Humphrey	dangers	Morris Frank	gobbled
obey	practiced	cable car	clatter
poultry	Nashville, TN	Atlantic Ocean	foreign
forefeet	docked	eager	taxi
New York	Philadelphia	Cincinnati	Morristown, NJ

flashbulbs

Labrador Retrievers

companion

pioneer

Before Reading:

- Discuss how chapter books are different from other books your students may have read.
- Take a picture walk with students and draw their attention to the nine chapter headings and illustrations. Ask them to use these to predict what the story is about and why Buddy is important. Students can list these in their journals or on the chalkboard and check for accuracy of the predictions after reading the book.
- Discuss the proper nouns in the list of vocabulary words before reading each chapter and discuss why these names of people and places may be important to the story.

Reading:

Read *Buddy: The First Seeing Eye Dog* aloud to the class.

Discussion Questions:

Establish reading for a purpose. Ask students what they think the author's purpose is for writing this story. Have them use the following statements as a guide to help them determine a purpose for reading or use clues from the illustrations and chapter headings to write their own.

Chapter 1:

Read to find out who Dorothy Eustis was, where she lived, and what kind of dog training she was doing.

Chapter 2:

Read to find out what Dorothy discovered about how guide dogs were trained in Germany.

Chapter 3:

Read to find out how Buddy was trained to guide the blind. How did Morris Frank meet Dorothy and Buddy?

Chapter 4:

Read to find out how Jack trained Morris to work with Buddy so he could live with her on his own.

Chapter 5:

Read to find out how Buddy saved Morris Frank's life.

Chapter 6:

Read to find out why Morris said he felt free by the time he finished his training with Buddy. What did Morris and Dorothy decide they wanted to do to help other blind people?



Chapter 7:

Read to find out what the newspaper reporters asked Morris to do to prove that Buddy was well-trained.

Chapter 8:

Read to find out how Buddy changed Morris's life after he moved to Nashville, Tennessee. Describe how the Seeing Eye School was established and how it changed the lives of its students.

Chapter 9:

Read to find out what happened to Buddy and why she was considered a pioneer. How does the Seeing Eye, now located in Morristown, New Jersey continue to help blind people become more independent?

Guided Practice:

- Use the following information to help students organize facts from the text according to People, Places, and Events. Students can list important People, Places, and Events on a chart as they are reading. See attached graphic organizer (Nonfiction Notes) that can be used as a guide for students to record information as they read. Younger students can read and do the activities with the teacher as the chapters are read aloud. Older students may be able to read the chapters and complete the graphic organizer on their own.

People:

Dorothy Eustis
Buddy

Morris Frank
Jack Humphrey

Places:

Fortunate Fields
Nashville, Tennessee

Germany
New York

Morristown, New Jersey
the Swiss Alps

Events:

- In 1927, Dorothy Eustis visits a dog training school in Germany.
- Kiss (Buddy) was trained by Jack Humphrey to be the first guide dog from Fortunate Fields.
- Morris Frank comes from America for a dog and begins training with Buddy.
- Morris learns that Buddy has been trained to protect him and the importance of following her signals.
- Morris enjoys the independence he has gained by having buddy as his guide dog. He decides to start a new school for dog guides in the United States.

- Newspaper reporters and photographers ask Morris to prove that Buddy can lead him across a busy street.
- Morris and Dorothy open the Seeing Eye dog school in Nashville, Tennessee. By 1929, two students begin their training with guide dogs.
- In 1931, Morris and Buddy move and open the Seeing Eye School to New Jersey.
- In October, 1936, Buddy turns 10 years old.
- In 1938, Buddy dies. Morris is sad to lose Buddy. He continues to have guide dogs and names all of them after Buddy.
- The Seeing Eye School in Morristown, New Jersey is still open today. It matches about 300 blind people with guide dogs every year.

Closure:

Using the People, Places, and Events chart, have students draw an illustration and write a couple of sentences to describe their favorite part of the book.

Bonus Activity:

The following web sites and books can be used to provide additional information about Buddy, Morris Frank, and Dorothy Eustis.

America Comes Alive

<http://www.americacomesalive.com>

The Seeing Eye

<http://www.seeingeye.org>

Additional Resources:

Hall, Becky. *Morris and Buddy: The Story of the First Seeing Eye Dog*. Park Ridge, IL: Albert Whitman & Co., 2007. (Children's Book)

Swanback, Steve. *The Seeing Eye (NJ) Images of America*. Mount Pleasant, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2002. (Teacher Resource)

Bibliography:

Moore, Eva. *Buddy: The First Seeing Eye Dog*. New York: Holiday House, 1998.