

My Dog Socks

By Robyn Osborne & Illustrated by Sadami Konchi

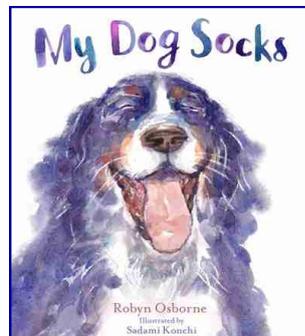
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Join Socks in his secret world, where imagination rules and the everyday becomes extraordinary. While most people think Socks is just an ordinary dog, through a child's eyes he becomes an enchanted character of many disguises – a chameleon who changes with his environment. One day he's a contented cow rolling in grass, the next a sleek seal basking on rocks, or even a terrible tiger, sprinting from hunters and searching for prey.

Regardless of his many guises however, Socks offers a dog's unconditional love and loyalty, for 'when he is by my side, he is my best friend'.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Friendship, loyalty and belonging
- Unconditional Love
- Strong Bonds
- Imagination

Discussion Questions & Activities:

Before Reading:

- Look at the front and back cover of *My Dog Socks* and predict what the story will be about. What sort of story do you expect? What clues do the title and illustrations give you?
- Do Socks and the boy look happy or sad? What makes you think that?
- What breed of dog do you think Socks might be?
- What age do you think the boy on the back cover is?
- Why do you think the dog was called Socks?

After Reading:

- What are the different animals in Socks' shadows that appear throughout the book?
- What do you think the boy feels about each different animal?
- Why do you think the boy imagines that the shadow of his ordinary dog, Socks, changes like a chameleon?
- When or what animal does the boy like Socks as best?
- Why do you think a dog like Socks is so special to the boy?
- Discuss the acceptance of others such as family members and friends. How difficult it is and how important it is to nurture love?
- Imagine you're the boy in this story. What sort of animals or insects do you imagine for a dog or your own pet? Where do you want to go with your imagined creatures? Write them down or draw them.
- Sadami used watercolour to paint the illustrations. Colours convey a mood. Look up the colour circle and discuss what colours send different moods.
- Compare each spread's mood. For example, look at the spread of a wolf shadow and the spread of a penguin. What colours were used?
- Rhyme – add extra rhyming words; flapping and snapping and clapping, pouncing and trouncing and flouncing.
- Alphabetical order – make a list of the different animals in Socks' shadows that appear throughout the book, then arrange them in alphabetical order.