

Lamont Books Standing Order

August 2013

Teacher Notes and Activities

Banjo & Ruby Red

By Libby Gleeson & Illustrated by Freya Blackwood
ISBN 9781921541087
\$24.95

**Picture Book of
the Month**

Banjo is a hard-working farm dog and Ruby Red is a haughty chicken, and they never see eye to eye. Can they ever be friends?

This funny and touching story of antagonism and love is by award-winning author Libby Gleeson, with illustrations by internationally acclaimed Freya Blackwood.



Teacher notes have been taken from those supplied by the publishers, Little Hare.

Themes:

- Farm life
- Antagonism
- Compassion
- Responsibility
- Friendship

Discussion Points and Activities:

- Banjo is described as a 'chook dog'. What does this mean? What is his special role on the farm? Why is Ruby Red such a problem for Banjo?
- Why do you think Ruby Red refuses to move from the woodheap?
- How do you think Banjo feels when he can't find Ruby Red? Why do you think that?
- Even though Ruby Red always causes a problem for Banjo he still helps her. Why do you think he does this?
- Once Ruby Red is better what changes between her and Banjo?
- Ruby Red still doesn't go into the chook shed, but it's not a problem for Banjo anymore. Why is that?
- Banjo is described as 'the best chook dog we've ever had'. As a class, discuss the important role dogs play on farms and research the different types of jobs (not necessarily on a farm) that working dogs can do. After this research, get the students to imagine and draw a working dog of their own. Get them to give the dog a name and write a short description about what their dog's particular job is and why it is so important.
- As a class, think of other animals that you might find on a farm and make a list. Then get students to pick an animal from that list to write a short report about. The report should include an image of the animal and information about their features, diet and why they are found on a farm. Get students to read out their reports and then play a game of 'Who Am I?' using hats with photos of the animals attached. Encourage students to formulate questions based on the class research.
- Before Ruby Red gets sick she refuses to do what Banjo wants her to do. Get the students to think about a time in their own lives when someone has refused to do something they have asked. Ask them to write a journal entry about this experience that details what the disagreement was about, why it happened, each side of the argument and how it was resolved. Could the situation have been resolved differently? Can they now understand the other person's point of view?