

Lamont Books Standing Order

August 2014

Teacher Notes and Activities

Top Dog

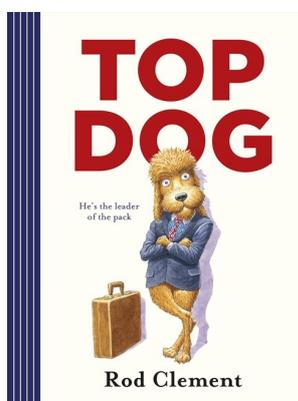
By Rod Clement

Publisher: Harper Collins

ISBN 9780732298760

\$24.99

Written with enormous wit and insight, from the delightfully deadpan Rod Clement, comes a tale about Samson, top dog and corporate high-flier. Will tickle children and resonate with parents. There's no doubt it's a dog-eat-dog environment in the corporate world, but Samson the poodle is up for the challenge. In fact - Samson may be the boss, but he's a good boss. He rewards his troops well - with a pat on the head, a kind word and every now and then, a little treat.



Teacher notes have been taken from those prepared by the publisher, Harper Collins. A full version will be available at www.teachershub.com.au

Themes:

- Animals and humans: Are we so different?
- Being the Boss: Leadership and Responsibilities

Discussion Points and Activities:

In this story the main character, Samson, is a dog that behaves like a human. He wears a suit jacket and works in an office. He does all the things that a regular human might do but with a little doggie edge to them. On top of this, sometimes the humans in the story behave a bit like animals! It's funny to think what the world might be like if animals ran the world.

- What are some of the things that humans and animals have in common? What is different about them? Are humans a kind of animal? Why? How? Do you think animals could run the world? What might be different about a world run by animals?

Sometimes it might look easy being a boss but being a good boss means being a good leader and with this comes responsibilities.

- What responsibilities do you think come with being a leader? Have you ever been the boss of anything? Would you like to be? Do you think it would be easy or hard? Why/why not?

Have a look at the way Rod Clement has given the humans in the story some animal qualities.

- As a class, brainstorm some different animals and the personalities you associate with them. For example, an echidna may be shy and a dolphin may be playful. Could you draw these animals as people? Have a go. Select an animal and use coloured pencils to create their 'human version'. Think about how you can express their personality. Do they wear human clothes like Samson? Do they have a half-human half-animal face like the fat cats from the city? You decide. Share your drawing with the class.