

## **Sad, The Dog**

By Sandy Fussell and Tull Suwannakit

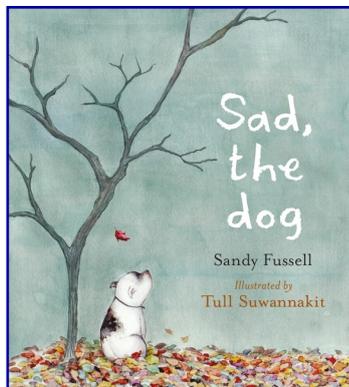
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What does a dog need to feel loved and cared for?

Mr and Mrs Cripps feed their dog, wash him, and even clean inside his ears. But they don't give him a name. So the dog names himself - SAD. What will it take to make SAD, the dog, happy?



Teacher notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher, Walker Books.

### **Themes:**

- Pets
- Loneliness
- Sadness
- Friendship
- Caring for others

### **Discussion Points & Activities:**

- Who are the characters in this story? Who is the main character? What do we know about the characters from the text and illustrations? Create a character profile for each of the characters.
- Examine the page where Sad stops singing, drawing and reading. Pay attention to Sad's facial expression and body language. As a class, create a mind-map of the emotions that Sad might be feeling at this point in the story. In the mind-map, include some thoughts that might be going through Sad's head (for example: "Nobody loves me" or "I'm very lonely" etc.) Do the same activity for the page where the new family first arrive and Sad hides in the pile of leaves and for the page where Jack renames Sad as Lucky.
- Endpapers are the first and last pages in a book (i.e. the ones that are stuck to the inside of the front and back covers). Compare what is happening on the front endpapers to the back endpapers. What is different about them? What do you think caused the changes?
- Write a story about the day you got your pet, or a special day you had with your pet, or an imaginative story about your dream pet. Include illustrations in your story.
- Write a sequel to Sad, the Dog. What do Jack and Lucky do next? Some ideas are they could help another sad animal, Lucky could go missing or Mr and Mrs Cripps could come back and try to take Lucky away. Let your imagination go wild!
- Sad is "an unwanted Christmas present from a friend." Why is it a bad idea to give someone a pet as a surprise gift?
- Dogs and other pets can take a lot of work to look after. Make a list of all the items you would need and the things you would need to do to look after a dog or another pet.