

## **Mrs Dog**

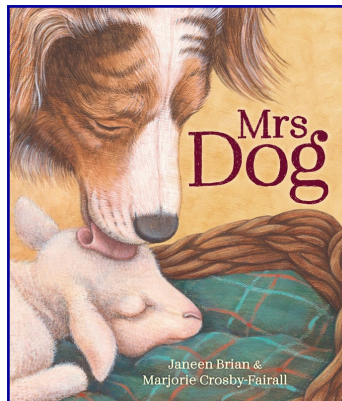
By Janeen Brian & Illustrated by Majorie Crosby-Fairall

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\$19.95

Mrs. Dog is a farm dog at the end of her working life. She spends her days shadowing the steps of Tall-One - the farmer. When the pair discover an abandoned lamb one day, Mrs. Dog adopts the stray and the lamb becomes her surrogate pup, learning the ways of dogs and life on the farm. Until one day Mrs. Dog goes missing. And that's when everything changes. This is a story about change, courage and determination. It's the story about an old farm dog who rescues a lamb, and the lamb who rescues her right back.



Teacher notes have been based in part on those supplied by the publisher, The Five Mile Press.

### **Themes:**

- Aging
- Change
- Courage
- Trust
- Friendship
- Hope
- Love

### **Discussion Points and activities:**

- Looking at the cover, can you tell what type of dog Mrs Dog is?
- What jobs do dogs do on a farm? Why did Mrs Dog no longer do them? How do you think she felt about this?
- Why do you think Mrs Dog wanted to rescue the baby lamb?
- What characteristics did Mrs Dog show in her care for Baa-rah?
- Have you read any other books that feature animals as the main characters?
- The author uses descriptive words to name her characters including woolly-heads and beak-wings. Think of all the other animals that are on farms. Create your own descriptive words for them.
- How did Tall-One and Tall-Two know that Mrs Dog was in trouble?
- How would you describe what Baa-rah did for Mrs Dog?
- Look at the spread that features a rescued Mrs Dog — how do you think the farmer rescued her? What clues does the illustrator include?
- Choose your favourite picture from the story and create a pastel drawing of it to display in the class.