

Dog Lost

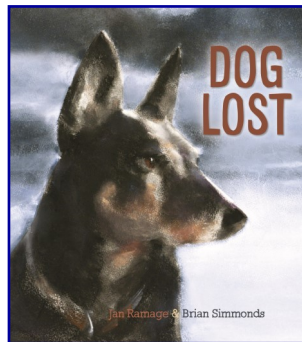
By Jan Ramage & Illustrated by Brian Simmonds

Publisher: Windy Hollow Books

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\$25.95

This story is inspired by the heroic accounts of dogs that miraculously find their way home after long periods of being lost. Some inner sense of knowing guides them back home. A longing and bond of love and loyalty drives them forward. Mankind owes so much to our faithful best friend.



Teacher notes are based on those supplied by the publisher, Windy Hollow Books.

Themes:

- The power of love
- Determination & Persistence
- Resilience
- Trust

Discussion Points and activities:

Before Reading

- The title describes what the story may be about, but what does the cover illustration tell you about where it may be set and what type of dog the book is about?
- As a first reading, read the book using only the illustrations. Allow the children to describe what is happening in the illustrations and to predict what may happen.

After reading

- Were there any differences to your story and the actual story?
- Look at the spreads that focus on Dog's face. Do you think the illustrator has managed to capture Dog's emotions? What do you think Dog may have been thinking? How do these close ups of Dog make you as a reader feel?
- Why do we need to 'stop and stay quiet and listen'?
- Re-read the book this time with no illustrations. Close your eyes and imagine some of the scenes. Choose a description in the book, for example "But the storm came. Wind raged, thunder boomed as lightening tore up the sky. And rain, like a wild, angry torrent swept him away." and imagine all of your senses experiencing it. Write about what you can see, hear, smell, taste and feel.
- The author has used many evocative descriptions of the natural environment. Some of these might help inspire you in your own writing. Write as many as you can find on cards, such as thunder boomed, trees whisper, night sky sparkles etc and place them on a writing inspiration wall. Come up with some of your own and add them to the wall.

Further reflection

- Why do stars twinkle?
- Why was Dog's life described as 'a life of open freedom...'?
- What does the snake represent? Elaborate.