

## **The 12th Dog**

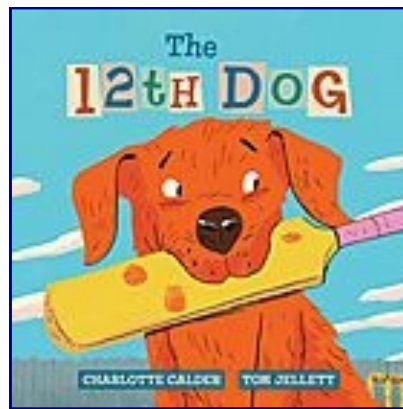
By Charlotte Calder & Illustrated by Tom Jellett

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In the summer holidays, a game of backyard cricket brings the whole neighbourhood together, and no one loves the game more than Arlo the dog. He's the fastest fielder there is, but there's a big problem: he never gives up the ball! Forced to watch from the sidelines, Arlo is determined to get back on the team - he just needs to prove that he is a great cricketer after all. The 12th Dog captures the joy of backyard cricket and the hilarity of owning a dog.



### **Themes:**

- Backyard cricket
- Playing outside
- Pets
- Persistence

### **Discussion Questions:**

- Is 'backyard cricket' one of the games that you like to play with your friends?
- If so, what do you like about it and who do you play it with?
- Do you have a set of special rules that you play by? If so, what do they include?
- What are some of the other games that you can play outside?
- If you have a pet, do they like to be involved with the games that you play outside? Do they sometimes get in the way like Arlo did?
- Do you think Arlo initially thought he was doing the wrong thing? Discuss.
- Why do you think pets like to be involved when things are happening outside?
- Arlo showed that he was determined to play cricket with the kids. Can you recall a time when you showed determination like Arlo?
- What is the cricketing significance of the '12th' in the title?
- Have you ever been to a real cricket game, whether it be local cricket or international? If so, describe the atmosphere and what you enjoyed most about it.
- As a class, brainstorm all the cricket words that you can think of. When you are done, undertake some further research to see how many more you can find. You may also like to research some of the more obscure cricket terms to find out what they mean.

### **Activities:**

- Organise a small round robin cricket tournament at your school. You may like to play grade vs grade and make the finals a whole school celebration of playing sport and having fun. Each grade might like to make their own signs to hold up in the crowd and support their team, or dress up, just like they do at the real cricket.