

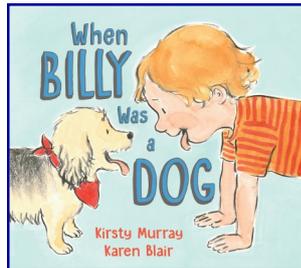
When Billy Was A Dog

By Kirsty Murray & Illustrated by Karen Blair

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'Can I please, please, please have a dog?' asked Billy. 'Would you walk it every day and wash it if it got dirty?' 'I would, I promise!' said Billy. Billy wants a dog. He really really really wants one. Billy's parents aren't so sure. So one morning, Billy takes matters into his own paws. A gloriously funny, warm and true story from the creators of *Puddle Hunters*.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Family
- Dogs and puppies
- Neighbours
- Imagination
- Responsibility

Discussion Questions:

Pre-reading activity:

Before reading *When Billy Was a Dog*, look at the title and cover design. Discuss what students think the story might be about and the clues in the picture that make them think that. Ask questions such as:

- What is the boy doing with the dog?
- What do you think the boy's name will be?
- Why do you think Billy might be acting this way?
- Do you think this is going to be a funny or sad story?

Front Endpaper:

- Name as many different types of dogs that you can see here.
- What sort of book is on the front endpaper and what do we usually keep in this type of book?
- How many dogs can you count on the front endpaper?

Blurb: Turn the book over, read the blurb on the back cover, then discuss the following:

- What information did the blurb give you?
- Does it make you want to read the story?
- What do you think Billy and the dog are doing in the illustration?
- Why is it funny when the blurb says, 'Billy takes matters into his own paws'?

Post-reading comprehension and activities

After reading the story ask the following comprehension questions:

- Billy loves dogs, but which dog does he especially love?
- Why do Billy's mum and dad think he needs to wait before he can have a dog?
- Name three chores involved in looking after a dog.
- What sort of things does Billy do when he is pretending to be a dog?
- Why do you think Billy's dad said, 'Don't you dare,' when passing Fluff's fence?
- What does Mrs Banerjee mean when she says, 'I think it is her time'?
- Look carefully at the picture of Fluff and her puppies and explain why Billy names them Snow, Chocolate and Boots.
- What sort of a 'trick' do Mrs Banerjee and Billy's parents play on Billy when they say that Boots has gone to a new home?
- What does Billy promise to do for Boots forever and ever at the end of the story?