

## **Big Dog, Little Dog**

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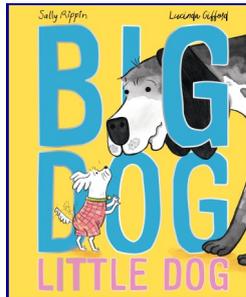
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First there was just Big Dog. And then, one day, Little Dog arrived...

A beautiful and hilarious story about the ups and downs of welcoming a new family member.



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

### **Themes:**

- Blended families
- Communication
- Sharing
- Consequences
- Loneliness and friendship

### **Discussion Questions and Activities:**

- Describe Big Dog's life before Little Dog. What makes him happy? What makes him sad?
- What is Big Dog's favourite moment of all?
- How do you think he feels when his best friend goes to work? How do you know?
- Make a list of the differences between Big Dog and Little Dog? Why does Big Dog feel frustrated that Little Dog does things differently? Do you ever feel frustrated when people don't do things the way you think they should?
- What does Big Dog do to try to get rid of Little Dog? Why do you think he wants Little Dog gone so badly?
- How does Little Dog make Big Dog's life even better than it was before?

### **Writing Exercise:**

- Write about a time that someone new came into your life. Write about a day in your life before you met them, and a day in your life afterwards. How did you feel? Did you get along straight away? How did you learn to live with each other?

### **Creative Activities:**

- The story is really written from Big Dog's point of view - we see how Little Dog moving in affects him. Try writing the story from Little Dog's perspective. How do you think Little Dog feels about their new life? What do you think their life looked like before they met Big Dog?
- What colours do you associate with the following emotions?
  - o Happy
  - o Sad
  - o Excited
  - o Confused
- Draw a picture to go with the writing exercise above and use colour to show how the characters are feeling.
- Big Dog does a LOT of naughty things to try to get rid of Little Dog. What do you think the worst is? What would you do if someone you didn't like joined your family? How would the other members of your family react?
- What does your family like? What do you do together to have fun? Draw a picture of your favourite moment with your family (don't forget to use colour!)