

● Lesson 3

Marlo the Puppy

What Do You Know?

In “Marlo the Puppy” you will read about people who help train a puppy for a big job. The puppy will be a Seeing Eye dog. Think about what dogs can do.



Answer the following questions.

1. Do all puppies sit when you tell them to sit?

Why or why not?

2. Do you think it is easy to train a puppy?

Why or why not?

3. List three things people can train puppies to do.

4. Would you like to train a puppy?

Why or why not?

Write a complete sentence to answer the following question.

5. Why do people train puppies?

Read the story “Marlo the Puppy.” Find out how Marlo the puppy is trained.



Marlo the Puppy

Chandra and her mother, Mrs. Gray, had been thinking about getting a puppy. Mrs. Gray wanted to get a puppy that would live at their house for just a short time.

“A puppy that lives in your home for just a little while is called a foster puppy, Chandra,” Mrs. Gray said. “The foster puppy we will get will stay with us and then go on to school before it goes to a new home.”

“It’s funny to think of dogs going to school,” Chandra said.

“Some of them do,” Mrs. Gray said. “Our dog will go to a school to be a Seeing Eye dog. It will be a good helper for someone who cannot see. But for now, it is just a puppy who wants a good home.”



Chandra had never had a foster puppy before, but her mother had. Mrs. Gray had a book about training the puppy, and she and Chandra read it.

Mrs. Gray said, “This puppy will need to be trained. It must know how to sit, stay, lie down, and walk with someone. It will need to go with us in the car, on the bus, and on the train so it knows what it is like to do all that.”

“I am good with dogs,” Chandra said. “I can help train it to sit, stay, and lie down, just like I helped train Comet.”

“Yes, you were very good with Comet,” said her mother. Comet was their older dog. “And he knows how to sit, stay, and lie down very well. This puppy will need to be very good at all of that because it will have a lot of work to do in its new home as a Seeing Eye dog.”

After Chandra and her mother had read the book and talked about training dogs, Mrs. Gray said, “Let’s go pick up the puppy.”

“Yes,” said Chandra. “Let’s go get our new foster puppy.”

In the car Mrs. Gray said more about the foster puppy. “It will stay with us for about one year. After that year, it will go on to school and then to its new home.”



Then the car came to a stop, and Chandra and her mother went in to get the puppy.

At its foster home, the little puppy had all it needed. Mrs. Gray and Chandra trained it, and Comet and Chandra played with it. And it went with them in the car and on the bus. It went with them on the train too. It needed to know what it was like to go everywhere so it could be a good Seeing Eye dog.

Chandra named the little puppy Marlo. Chandra was sad to know that Marlo had to go away in a year.

“I am sad that Marlo cannot always live with us,” she said to her mother.

“Does it help you to think that he will be a big help for someone who needs him?”

“Yes, it does,” said Chandra.

“And we will go see him in his new home too.”

After one year, Marlo did very well. When someone said *sit*, he sat. He was good at staying and walking with people too. He liked people, and he wanted to do what they asked. And he was used to going everywhere with people.



“Now he is ready to go to school where he will be trained to be a Seeing Eye dog,” said Mrs. Gray.

The Grays went to see Marlo at the school. The man Marlo was going to live with was there too. His name was Mr. Alton.

“Thank you for helping Marlo,” Mr. Alton said to the Grays. “He is a very good dog. He will have a good home with me, and you can come and see him anytime.”

“Thank you,” said Mrs. Gray and Chandra.

As they went home, Mrs. Gray asked Chandra, “Are you sad now?”

“I’m not too sad,” said Chandra. “I liked helping Marlo, but he has a good home now with someone who likes him very much. And we can go and see him sometime.”

“And Marlo will be a very good Seeing Eye dog,” said her mother. “Thank you for all your help, Chandra.”

● What Did You Find?

Write your answers on the lines below.

1. Mrs. Gray is Chandra's _____.
2. A _____ Eye dog is a helper for someone who cannot see.
3. The Grays' older dog is named _____.
4. Chandra and Mrs. Gray read a book to find out about training _____.

Mark an X on the line in front of the correct answer below.

5. What did Chandra name the new puppy?

_____ Jake

_____ Marlo

_____ Fluffy

6. Marlo stayed with the Grays for

_____ about one year.

_____ forever.

_____ two days.

7. After staying with the Grays, Marlo went to

_____ the country.

_____ school.

_____ a pet store.

● Author's Purpose

You should try to understand why someone writes a story the way he or she does—the author's purpose for writing. Authors can write to *entertain*, so that people enjoy reading. Authors can write to *inform*, so that people can learn something. Authors can write to *persuade*, so that people will think the same way the author does. Authors often write using two or three purposes at once.

Think about why the author wrote “Marlo the Puppy.” The following sentences from the story show the author's purpose.

Purpose of “Marlo the Puppy”	
Inform	A puppy that lives in your home for just a little while is called a foster puppy.
Entertain	“It’s funny to think of dogs going to school,” Chandra said.

Write the answer on each line below. Use the chart above.

1. The first sentence teaches you what a _____ is.
2. The second sentence shows that the author's purpose is to _____.

● Writing Using Author's Purpose

Read the following sentences from "Marlo the Puppy," and answer the questions below.

"Our dog will go to a school to be a Seeing Eye dog. It will be a good helper for someone who cannot see. But for now, it is just a puppy who wants a good home."

1. In the sentences you learn that Marlo will go to _____.
2. You also learn that a Seeing Eye dog is _____
_____.
3. The sentences teach you about something.
Their purpose is to _____.

Read the sentence below.

Marlo needed to know what it was like to go everywhere so he could be a good Seeing Eye dog.

Write complete sentences to answer the following questions about the sentence above.

4. What does the sentence teach you? _____

5. Does the sentence inform or entertain you? _____
