

Classroom Activities

Based on *The Mystery of the Spaniel Family's Dog House*

To the Librarian and/ or Teachers:

The Mystery of the Spaniel Family's Dog House is a story about three dogs that have just moved to East Texas and discover something has moved into their dog house. The writing elements of alliteration, poetry, and rhythmical phrasing are used throughout the story. These worksheets are for you to utilize in the library/classroom along with the Spaniel Family book.

The exercises will get your 3rd-5th students to think beyond the book and explore their own writing styles with poetry, alliteration, rhythmical phrasing, and sentence structure utilizing adjectives adverbs nouns and verbs. In addition the students will have the opportunity to explore the clues in the plot and the characterization of the stories main characters.

There are three sections divided by grade level.

Classroom activities based on *The Mystery of the Spaniel Family's Dog House*

Exercises for **Third Grade**

Poetry

Look at each of Moe's poems in the story.

Discuss the rhyme patterns. You will notice some are in AABB and some are in ABAB patterns.

Write a four line poem using AABB rhyme pattern.

Write a four line poem using ABAB rhyme pattern.

Alliteration

Alliteration is the repetition of the first consonant sound in a phrase. A common example in English is "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled ..."

Some examples from *The Mystery of the Spaniel Family's Dog House* are:

He fumbled for his biggest and brightest flashlight finally found it and flashed it in the farthest corner.

The little black dog darted down the dark passageway.

In the space below write your own alliteration.

Use of Adjectives, Nouns, Adverbs, and Verbs.

In the space below use the words **Sneaky** (adjective), **Mouse** (noun), **Mysteriously** (adverb), **Crawled** (verb) to make a complete sentence.

In the space below write a sentence that would fit into a mystery story using your own adjective, noun, adverb, and verb.

Characterization

In the Spaniel Family books our main characters Joe, Daisy, and Maggie are characterized in a consistent way. Maggie is always the older, wiser, more cautious dog. Daisy is the sneaky, fast moving, adventurous dog, and Joe is the singing song writing, hardworking dog, who admires all cowboys.

Describe the character of Moe the Mole.

Describe the character of Jaba the Mutt.

Exercises for Fourth Grade

Poetry

Look at each of Moe's poems in the story.

Discuss the rhyme patterns. You will notice some are in AABB and some are in ABAB patterns.

Write a four line poem using AABB rhyme pattern.

Write a four line poem using ABAB rhyme pattern.

Joe Cocker Spaniel loves to write songs. In the space below write a new lyric to *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*. Here is an example ...

Run, run, run, the race
the very best you can.
Happily, happily, happily, happily
You will get a tan.

Alliteration

Alliteration is the repetition of the first consonant sound in a phrase. A common example in English is "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled ..."

Some examples from *The Mystery of the Spaniel Family's Dog House* are:

He fumbled for his biggest and brightest flashlight finally found it and flashed it in the farthest corner.

The little black dog darted down the dark passageway.

In the space below write your own alliteration.

Use of Adjectives, Nouns, Adverbs, and Verbs.

In the space below use the words **mouse** (noun), **crawled** (verb), **sneaky** (adjective), **mysteriously** (adverb), to make a complete sentence.

In the space below write a sentence that would fit into a mystery story using your own adjective, noun, adverb, and verb.

Analyzing the plot of the story

In the first two chapters what are the clues that tell the reader there might be an animal in the dog house instead of a ghost?

In chapters seven and eight what are the clues that tell the reader there might be gophers in the dungeon with gopher mounds instead of fresh graves as Jaba had feared?

Characterization

In the Spaniel Family books our main characters Joe, Daisy, and Maggie are characterized in a consistent way. Maggie is always the older, wiser, more cautious dog. Daisy is the sneaky, fast moving, adventurous dog, and Joe is the singing song writing, hardworking dog, who admires all cowboys.

Describe the character of Moe the Mole.

Describe the character of Jaba the Mutt.

Exercises for Fifth Grade

Poetry

Look at each of Moe's poems in the story.
There are two rhyme patterns.

In this section write a poem using one of the rhyme patterns Moe used in the story.

In this section write a poem using the other rhyme pattern Moe used in the story.

Joe Cocker Spaniel loves to write songs. In the space below write a new lyric to *Row, row, Row Your Boat*. Here is an example ...

Run, run, run, the race
the very best you can.
Happily, happily, happily, happily
You will get a tan.

Triolet Poetry

The Triolet (“triplet”) is a poem or a stanza of eight lines that includes two rhymes and two refrains. One refrain is the repetition of the first line at the fourth line and the seventh line and the eighth line is repetition of the second line. This triple appearance of one line gives the Triolet its name.

The rhyme pattern is:

ABaAabAB

Here is an example of a Triolet poem

Wisdom

Words of wisdom from her lips
Not expected in this place
Speaking firm her hands on hips
Words of wisdom from her lips
Out they came in short brief quips
Determined look now on her face
Word of wisdom from her lips
Not expected in this place

Now it's your turn. In the space below write a Triolet poem.

Alliteration

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The little black dog darted down the dark passageway.

In the space below write your own alliteration.

Use of Adjectives, Nouns, Adverbs, and Verbs.

In the space below use the words **mouse** (noun), **crawled** (verb), **sneaky** (adjective), **mysteriously** (adverb), to make a complete sentence.

In the space below write sentence that would fit into a mystery story using your own adjective, noun, adverb, and verb.

Analyzing the plot of the story

In the first two chapters what are the clues that tell the reader their might be an animal in the dog house instead of a ghost?

In chapters seven and eight what are the clues that tell the reader their might be gophers in the dungeon with gopher mounds instead of fresh graves as Jaba had feared?

Characterization

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Think of a character that could go on a new adventure with the Spaniel family. In the space below name and characterize your new character and describe where the Spaniel family is going with this new character.
