

# Classroom Activities

Based on “*The Spaniel Family’s Pen Pal Adventure*”

To the Librarians and/or Teachers:

*The Spaniel Family’s Pen Pal Adventure* is a story about three dogs and their new Pen Pal friend Chico Chihuahua, but there is more to this story. It is also a story about character traits, and specifically the traits of leadership, sharing, teamwork, and dependability. These worksheets are for you to utilize in the library/classroom along with the Spaniel Family Pen Pal book.

There are three sections to the worksheets. Section one contains simple definitions of each character trait along with an example from the book.

Section two is a match test. Students have to match quotes from the book to its corresponding trait.

Section three contains exercises. The exercises will get your 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade students to think beyond the book. The second and third grade will be able to utilize their writing skills to answer the questions.

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## **Section 1 – Character Trait Definitions**

### **Leadership**

Definition: Being a good example for everyone else to follow.

Example from the Spaniel Family's Pen Pal story:

Then Daisy said, "Yeah, we need to write to this poor little doggie named Chico. Just look at this ad." Daisy rushed into the doghouse for pen and paper.

### **Sharing**

Definition: Including others in your activities.

Example from the Spaniel Family's Pen Pal story:

The little Chihuahua pulled four bones from his hobo hankie to share.

### **Teamwork**

Definition: Working together for a common goal.

Example from the Spaniel Family's Pen Pal story:

The three doggies took turns writing this letter to Chico.

### **Dependability**

Definition: Being reliable and trustworthy.

Example from the Spaniel Family's Pen Pal story:

When Daisy said, "We have to go see Chico! He needs us and is depending on us to be his friends."

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## Section 2- Character Traits Match Game for Second and Third Grade.

Each of the four character traits listed on the left side of the page is assigned a letter. A= Leadership, B= Sharing, C= Teamwork, and D= Dependability. Quotes from the book *The Spaniel Family's Pen Pal Adventure*, are on the right side of the page. Read the quotes and choose the trait or traits that best describe the quote (in several of these there is more than one trait being utilized). Circle the corresponding letters. Good Luck!

**A. Leadership**

**B. Sharing**

**C. Teamwork**

**D. Dependability**

- A B C D Maggie said, "Daisy, I know just how you feel. Let's write Chico a letter and tell him we will be his friends."
- A B C D "What does it say?" Joe and Daisy asked at the same time. Maggie replied, "Let's get a Spanish/English dictionary and find out."
- A B C D Until then we will be Pen Pals. You can depend on us.
- A B C D Let's take the red wagon to the bus station.
- A B C D Joe jumped up and down and barked, "Come on, let's take a Texas adventure. It will be great!"
- A B C D "Well," said the driver, "We are going as far as Austin. Would you like to ride with us?"
- A B C D The children petted Chico and gave the pup some water.
- A B C D Chico thought for a minute and exclaimed, "I made it this far on my Texas adventure! I'm sure I can find a way to Dallas!"
- A B C D Spike said, "I have to get this bus to Austin pronto so y'all can see the State Capitol."
- A B C D The little Chihuahua pulled four bones from his hobo hankie to share.

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## Section 3- Exercises by Grade Level

### First Grade

**Ask...If you had a pen pal what would share with them about yourself?**

Have the students fill in the blanks on this sentence.

If I had a pen pal I would share \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
and \_\_\_\_\_ about myself with them.

**Ask... If you were in charge of a picnic who would you ask to help you?**

Have students work in groups of three to decide where they will go for their pretend picnic and what food they will bring.

Discuss the results and then **ask...Did your group team up to make the choices of the place and the food?**

**Ask... Do you know someone who is a good leader?**

The leadership in the pen pal book is shared. Maggie is the leader at the beginning of the story when she finds the pen pal ad. Daisy is the leader when she tells Joe and Maggie, "We have to go see Chico! He needs us and is depending on us to be his friends." Joe is the leader when he says, "Come on let's take a Texas adventure. It will be great!" Chico is the leader when he said, "I made it this far on my Texas adventure! I'm sure I can find a way to Dallas."

**Ask... Do you think you could be a good leader? Could you share your leadership with someone?**

**Ask... Who can you depend on?**

Give examples of dependable behavior. Some examples are... returning phone calls, arriving on time, and making and keeping a promise.

**Ask... Who can depend on you?**

Make copies of the dogs in the wagon coloring sheet found on the website ([www.gospaniels.com](http://www.gospaniels.com)) under the fun and games section. While the students are coloring ask them where they think the spaniel family should go on their next adventure and who should go with them.

**Here is a fun art Activity for first and second grade that emphasis characters and characterization.**

Have the students bring an old clean sock. Then take felt in various colors, buttons, thread, yarn, and glue to create sock puppets of the student's favorite characters from the books they are reading. Have a puppet show where the students can act out the things their favorite character would do and say.

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## Second Grade

### Character Traits Questions

If you had a pen pal what would you want to share with them about yourself?

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If you were forming a new team to help your school, who would you ask to be on your team and why?

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What could you lead your new team to do?

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## Third Grade

### Character Traits Questions

Pretend you have a pen pal. In the space below begin your first letter to them and share some things about yourself.

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If you were forming a new team to help your school who would you ask to be on your team and why?

What could you lead your team to do for your school?

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How can your teacher depend on you?

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## **Additional activity for the **Third Grade.****

Discuss with your students an interesting place in Texas to visit. Get a Texas map and have the students determine the best route to the interesting place you selected. Have the students figure the mileage and about how long it will take to drive there.