

Educator Page—December 2009

For teachers, media center staff, parents, children, and anyone else who'd like to gain even more value from Stories for Children Magazine

By: Claudette Hegel

“Training a Ghost Dog” (article)

Questions for thought and discussion:

1. What did you think a “ghost dog” was when you saw the title of the article?
2. Would you rather be responsible for a war pony or a horse that stayed with the herd? Why?
3. What would be the advantages of sharing your tipi with a horse? The disadvantages?

Activity idea:

Practice “training” using your voice, body language, and focusing as described in the article. You may try the methods with a horse, dog, or even a stuffed animal.

“A Sled Dog Tale” (story)

Questions for thought and discussion:

1. What names would you give your team of eight sled dogs?
2. What do you think would be the hardest part of working with a team of sled dogs?
3. Why do you think the dogs in the story could find their way home in the blizzard?

Activity idea:

Find out how much a dog the size of a sled dog eats in a day (many dog food packages give portion amounts for the weight of a dog). Check out the price of dog food (cans and dry food) in an ad or online. Determine how much feeding one dog costs per day. How much would feeding a team of eight sled dogs for a month cost?

“My Recital” (poem)

Questions for thought and discussion:

1. What have you ever done that made you nervous like the poem’s narrator?
2. What kinds of things could you do to make you feel less nervous when you have to perform in front of an audience?
3. The author mentions Antonio Vivaldi, a classical composer famous for his set of four violin concertos *The Four Seasons*. What are some songs you know that would be good for each of the four seasons (such as “Jingle Bells” as a good winter song)?

Activity idea:

Gather an audience, such as your classmates or family members. Do something (sing, dance, give a speech, etc.) that makes you nervous. Make sure the audience members know they should clap politely—even if just for your bravery—when you’re finished.