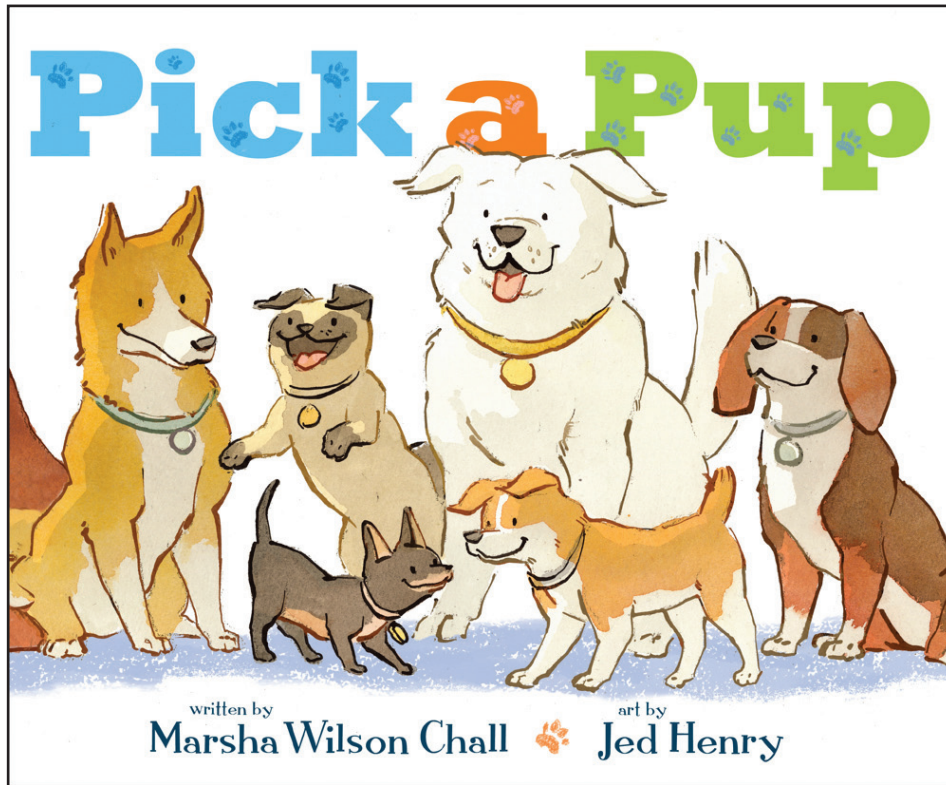


Curriculum Guide

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Pick a Pup

Marsha Wilson Chall

Illustrated by

Jed Henry

Sweet pups, hyper pups, sleepy pups, glamorous pups—
which pup would you pick?

SAM AND HIS GRANDMOTHER are off to the local animal shelter to select a dog. On their way they see all types of pups—a sit-in-your-lap dog, a runs-right-up pup, a woolly-like-a-sheep dog, and so many others! How will Sam ever know which type of dog to choose? Thankfully, at the shelter the perfect pup picks Sam!


This charming rhyming story about all kinds of playful pups and one boy's dilemma over a big decision will surely strike a chord with young readers as it reinforces a sweet message about animal adoption.


Before Reading


Have a discussion about the students' own pets and how they acquired them. Were they involved in the selection process? Involve students with no pets at home by discussing everyone's ideal pet. How many students would choose to have a dog? A cat? Another type of domestic animal?


After Reading


 Author Marsha Wilson Chall describes each pup in Sam's neighborhood using multiple-word phrases. For example, David's active pup is described as a "dances-for-a-bone pup" and Mr. King's pedigreed purebred as a "pick-of-the-litter pup." Complete "The Perfect Pet" worksheet (guide page 3) by creating three- to five-word phrases that describe the perfect pets for different kinds of people.


 Expand upon the Before Reading discussion by having each student collect data on the types of pets owned by each person in the class. Have each student fill in a tally chart (guide page 5) and then use this data to create a bar graph (guide page 6).


 Did you pick your pet or did your pet pick you? Write the story of how you and your pet came together. Draw pictures or use photos to illustrate your pet story. If you don't have a pet, imagine how a pet you would really like to own might come into your life.


 Arrange for a person from your local humane society or animal rescue organization to come to your school for a presentation about how these organizations connect animals with good homes. Before the presentation, as a class generate a list of questions to ask the expert on pairing pets and people.

 People often imagine what their pets might be thinking or what they would say if they could talk. Explore the world of your house and life from the perspective of a pet. What would a day in your pet's life look like? What types of thoughts would your pet have? Complete the "A Day in My Life" worksheet (guide page 4) with observations on the day from your pet's point of view.

 Have you ever begged your parent for a pet? What type of pet would you love to have? Research what your pet would require in terms of food, exercise, and grooming. Think of all of the responsibilities and all of the benefits that would come with owning a pet. Write a persuasive letter to your parents with the advantages and the duties that would come with pet ownership to help convince them to bring a pet into your family.

 There are many wonderful books and movies in which dogs are the central characters. Brainstorm a list of these and read one of the books aloud to the class.

 Each breed of dog has its own characteristics and attributes. Working in pairs or groups, assign each team a breed to research. Using nonfiction books from the library and/or information from websites such as The American Kennel Club (www.akc.org/breeds) have each group learn about the history and characteristics of their breed and create a one-page Fact Sheet and a drawing of their dog. Create a classroom "Read about the Breed" display with the materials.

 Make fun *Pick a Pup* stick pup-pets (guide page 7) and put on a pup-pet show!

Marsha Wilson Chall is the author of many children's books, including *One Pup's Up*, *Sugarbush Spring*, and *Up North at the Cabin*. A life-long dog lover and owner, she currently has two pups—a weimaraner diva named Tasha and a Labradoodle curly-girl named Scout, to whom *Pick a Pup* is dedicated. Marsha lives with her family in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Learn more about her life and work at www.marshachall.com.

Jed Henry is an accomplished animator who makes his picture book debut with *Pick a Pup*. He lives with his family in Utah. Visit his website, www.jedhenry.com, to explore his portfolio.

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Name _____

THE PERFECT PET

Each pup in Sam's neighborhood is described using multi-word phrases. Complete the chart below by creating three- to five-word phrases that describe the perfect pet for each person or job holder.

Person	The perfect pet
A great-grandmother	
A young child	
A young adult	
A family with two children	
A marathon runner	
A person with a visual impairment	
A professional dog show breeder	
A truck driver	
A ballerina	

Name _____

Imagine a day from your real or ideal pet's perspective. Fill in the diary below with your pet's thoughts and experiences.

A Day in My Life from the Diary of

_____, _____
(pet's name) (type of animal)

My day started with _____

This afternoon I _____

At dinner time I _____

Tomorrow I plan to _____

Name _____

PETS IN OUR CLASS

Data Record

Survey each classmate about the types of pets he/she owns. Record your data using tally marks.

Type of pet	Number owned by students in your class
Dog	
Cat	
Fish	
Hamster	
Turtle	
Snake	
Rabbit	
Guinea Pig	
Bird	
Other	

Name _____

Pick a Pup This page may be photocopied for free distribution.

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PICK A PUP-PETS!

Print this page on cardstock using a color printer. Cut out the pups below and attach a stick to the back of each one (a wooden chopstick or unsharpened pencil works fine).

Have fun with your pup-pets! It's time for a pup-pet show!

