Let's Get a Pup!

Bob Graham

Kate was lonely in bed since Tiger the cat died. 'Let’s get a pup!' said Kate. So she and her parents went to the Animal Rescue Centre and tried to choose a dog to take home. They fell in love with Dave, who was small and cute - he was just what they wanted. But then they saw Rosy, who was old and grey and broad as a table. They wanted to take her home too, but they had already chosen their pup. They walked slowly away leaving her all alone. But the next morning they were back - to collect Rosy! Now Dave and Rosy make their family complete.

Visual Arts: 3D models

Collect a variety of pictures and information showing different types of dogs and their characteristics.

Discuss how they are different and how they are similar. Have each child select one type of dog.

Give each child a characteristic of a dog from the text. Discuss how you would know a dog was like this and how this description could be portrayed in a 3D model of a dog.

Have children create a 3D model of the type of dog they have chosen that has the characteristics given them from the text.

3D materials could include plasticine, play dough, boxes and paddlepop sticks, junk materials, etc.

Characteristics from the text could include:

- Fighters
- Biters
- Growlers
- Snarlers
- Short dogs
- Thin dogs
- Dogs with their cheeks sucked in
- Happy dogs
- Sad dogs
- ‘Take me’ dogs
- Dogs who couldn’t care less
- Smelly dogs
- Fat dogs
- **Lean and mean dogs, etc**

Word process or have children write a brief description of the breed of their dog and its personal characteristics.

Take pictures of each of the models using a digital camera, polaroid or 35mm camera.

Put the pictures alongside the appropriate descriptions the children have written (either electronically or using scissors and glue) and create a book for prospective dog owners to examine so that they can choose a dog to take home.

**Drama: Narrative**

Have each child take their artwork and show it to the class, telling them about its breed and characteristics, and why it is the best dog to take home as a pet.

**Dance: Student Compositions (Levels)**

Read through the text and look at the illustrations which show Dave’s antics, eg:

- He turned a complete circle in the air
- He climbed onto Kate’s head
- He pulled the tablecloth off the table
- He dug holes in the flower beds

Create a simple repeated movement for each of the antics, remembering to use contrasting levels, eg.

- Turn around 360 degrees
- Pretend to climb up and up
- Pull something down to the floor
- Dig deep into the ground

Put these movements to music with a steady beat to create a simple movement sequence to represent Dave.

Repeat the same activity, but use Rosy’s movements as the stimulus, eg.

- Her tail sweeping things off the table
- Lying on the floor watching TV
- Climbing onto the couch
- Jumping down off the couch
**Visual Arts: 2D Design**

Examine the illustrations of the T-shirts worn by the people in the story. Each T-shirt has a simple design on it which could symbolise something.

Draw a list of the symbols, eg.
- Smoking match
- Soccer ball
- Light bulb glowing
- Number 1
- Lit cigarette crossed out

Discuss why they wore these symbols on their shirts.

Have children think of a symbol they would like to have on their T-shirt. Give them an outline of a T-shirt and have them draw their design on the outline.

Ask children to hold up their completed artworks and explain why they drew that particular symbol on their T-shirt.

**Extension:**
Encourage children to bring their own pre-washed t-shirt in to class and, using fabric paints, draw their symbol onto their t-shirt.

**Music:**
Choose a simple familiar song and write new words to it, based on the text, eg. to the tune Frere Jacques:

1. *Kate was lonely, Kate was lonely,*  
   'Let's get a pup!' Let's get a pup!'  
   Fighters, biters, growlers snarlers,  
   Fighters, biters, growlers, snarlers,  
   Which will she choose? Which will she choose?

2. *Kate was lonely, Kate was lonely,*  
   'Let's get a pup!' Let's get a pup!'  
   Short or long dogs, happy, sad,  
   Short or long dogs, happy, sad,  
   Which will she choose? Which will she choose?
3. Kate was lonely, Kate was lonely,
   'Let’s get a pup! Let’s get a pup!’
   Smelly dogs and fat dogs,
   Smelly dogs and fat dogs,
   Which will she choose? Which will she choose?

4. Kate was lonely, Kate was lonely,
   'Let’s get a pup! Let’s get a pup!’
   Lean and mean and scary dogs,
   Lean and mean and scary dogs,
   Which will she choose? Which will she choose?

5. Kate was lonely, Kate was lonely,
   'Let’s get a pup! Let’s get a pup!’
   She found Dave and Rosy too,
   She found Dave and Rosy too,
   That’s who she chose, that’s who she chose!