

Writing

There are many ways to supplement your classroom writing program by using ideas in *The Good Dog*. Below, you will find writing prompts and writing project suggestions organized by writing genre.

Creative Writing

1. Encourage students to use their imaginations to create a “sequel” to *The Good Dog*! What other adventures might Tako and Ricky have? Will Tako prove to be a hero in other ways and in other settings?
2. Tako and Ricky switch roles! In this creative writing activity, have students think about ways that Ricky would be the character that broke a rule. Maybe he takes Tako to a dog park but doesn’t know the rules there. What happens?
3. Assist students as they rewrite this story from the perspective of Ricky’s parents—or from the perspective of Mr. Pritchard.
4. Have students brainstorm about the kinds of lessons that Mr. Pritchard needs to learn in order to become a better, more honest man. How could he learn some of these lessons? Encourage students to write stories about how Mr. Pritchard learns a lesson and becomes a better man!

Descriptive Writing:

1. Throughout the book, many desserts are mentioned. Have students tell each other their favorite dessert and write a descriptive paragraph about this dessert that makes their mouths water!
2. Pick one of the dessert’s names from the book (i.e. smushberry muffin). Have students look at the pictures and then visualize what these pretend treats would taste like, look like and feel like in their mouths.
3. Ricky really wanted Tako as a pet. Have students describe a pet they would like to have, what they would do with the pet and how they would take care of it and make sure that it followed the rules.



“How To” Writing:

1. After discussing the role that rules and pets play in the story, have students generate a list of 3-5 rules for a pet.
2. Discuss whether or not students think that Tako had been trained. Have students research ideas about how to train dogs. Here is a good site for how to train a puppy: <http://www.dogbreedinfo.com/care.htm>. Have students develop a list of instructions for someone who wants to train a puppy.

Research Activity:

1. Explain to students that many dogs are more than just pets. Many dogs serve as working dogs (such as hunting dogs, search and rescue dogs, sled dogs and guide dogs).
2. Have your students research different types of working dogs and write an explanatory essay about their roles and responsibilities. They could also suggest what kind of working dog Tako could be one day!

