

Dog Driven – Summer Project

Hello rising 6th graders and parents. This summer your child will be reading Dog Driven by Terry Lynn Johnson. Below is an overview about the book and the assignments.

Background: The novel Dog Driven is about a girl who races sled dogs and is doing so for her sister who has a degenerative eye disease and will eventually go blind and just before the race she knows that she has the same disease.

1. Read the Novel Dog Driven
 - a. Answer the question for each chapter.
 - b. Make a list of any new words and their definitions while reading.
2. Choose one of the two research items and create a poster or brochure to display your information. I have included a graphic organizer to help you organize your information.

Options for Research:

- ✓ What is Stargardt's disease?
- ✓ What is the Great Superior Mail Race?

Due Date: The first week of school

I look forward to meeting and working with each of you next year.
Have a great summer!

Mrs. Ruehl

Graphic Organizer for Research

Topic	Information Summarized
What is Stargardt's disease?	
What happens if you have the disease?	
Who does it affect, and what are the treatments if any?	

What is the Mail Race, include general information routes?	
Where does the race take place, what are the routes. When and why was it first started?	

Project Rubric

Criteria	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
I have used my time well to research using the organizer provided.	I have used my time poorly to research using the organizer provided.	I have sometimes used my time to research using the organizer provided.	I have used my time well to research using the organizer provided.	I have used my time exceptionally well to research using the organizer provided.
I have critically evaluated the sources credibility.	I have not critically evaluated the sources credibility.	I have minimally evaluated the sources credibility.	I have critically evaluated the sources credibility.	I have thoroughly evaluated the sources credibility.
I have created a brochure with all aspects including photos, text, etc.	I have created a brochure with missing aspects including photos, text, etc.	I have created a brochure with 1-2 aspects including photos, text, etc.	I have created a brochure with most aspects including photos, text, etc.	I have created a brochure with all aspects including photos, text, etc.
I have written with proper spelling and grammar.	I have written with improper spelling and grammar.	I have written with many spelling and grammar mistakes.	I have mostly written with proper spelling and grammar.	I have written with exceptional spelling and grammar.
I have presented my findings to the class.	I have presented my findings to the class using minimal information.	I have presented some findings to the class.	I have presented my findings to the class.	I have clearly and concisely presented my findings to the class.
Teacher Comments:				

Dog Driven

Discussion Questions

Chapter 1:

1. What activity are the characters involved in?
2. What is the problem with the dog sleds?
3. Why do other sledders help the girl wearing yellow wind pants?
4. What is unusual about the lead dog of the boy dressed in an old war uniform? How do you think that dog is able to perform his job as a lead dog for the dog sled team?
5. Why do you think the author included a letter in this chapter? What year was the letter written and who do you think William and Margaret are?

Chapter 2:

1. What is happening to McKenna's eyesight?
2. What is the new dog sled race called?
3. Why does McKenna's sister, Emma, want her to enter the race?

4. Why does Emma want people to donate money for Stargardt disease? Is there a cure for Stargardt disease?
5. What are some hazards that McKenna is worried about with the race?

Chapter 3:

1. Why does McKenna not want Emma to tell their parents about her eyes?
2. What deal does McKenna make with Emma?

Chapter 4:

1. What does the Great Superior Mail run celebrate?
2. Why is McKenna's mom so adamant that she do this race?
3. Why do the racers have to take an oath to handle the mail?

Chapter 5:

1. What is a mass start? Why do dog mushers dislike them?
2. What kind of weather is at the start of the race? Why is this good for McKenna?

Chapter 6:

1. What is different about the letter in this chapter than those in previous chapters?

2. What are some difficulties McKenna is having at school?
3. What does McKenna realize that she lost after the sled overturns? Why is this bad for her?

Chapter 7:

1. At the Checkpoint, who does McKenna meet again?
2. What does McKenna learn about Guy?

Chapter 8:

1. Why does McKenna feel she needs to avoid being around her parents?
2. What does McKenna's mom mean when she says to McKenna, "Thank God you're whole?"
3. How do Emma's parents differ in the way they handle Emma's blindness?

Chapter 9:

1. Why does McKenna feel like she belongs with the group of kids at the campfire?
2. What does McKenna learn about the Cascades?
3. Why doesn't McKenna withdraw from the race?

Chapter 10:

1. What did you learn about the letter writer, William Desjardins?

2. What did you learn about McKenna's mom?
3. What kind of vision-enhancing equipment does Emma use at school and at home to help her?
4. Why doesn't Emma just wear glasses to correct her vision problem?

Chapter 11:

1. Who do you think tied McKenna's boot laces together? Why?
2. Why do Emma's parents both hate the cane that Enna needs to use for mobility?
3. What do you think would be hard for you to do or give up doing if you were losing your vision?

Chapter 12:

1. Why do you think the girl named Harper gave McKenna her extra spare cable cutters?
2. Why did Harper say that McKenna and her were even?

Chapter 13:

1. Why did the little girl named Kelly want McKenna to take a letter to her grandpa?

Chapter 14:

1. Why does McKenna decide to change lead dogs?

2. How did McKenna almost get lost?

Chapter 15:

1. Why does McKenna enjoy running alongside her dogs? Why did she quit running with the cross-country team?
2. What physical activity would you have to stop doing if you were blind?

Chapter 16:

1. What does McKenna learn about Harper and mushing?
2. What does Harper give McKenna?

Chapter 17:

1. What happens to McKenna with the owl? Why did the owl attack her head?

Chapter 18:

1. What prank does McKenna play on the sleeping Guy? Why?
2. What does Harper's dad tell her when she tells him she does not like his racing dog?

Chapter 19:

1. What are McKenna's parents arguing about again?
2. What are the pros for Emma being homeschooled? What are the cons?

3. If you were Emma, what would you want for schooling?
4. How does hearing this parental argument make McKenna feel about her possibly having Stargardt disease?

Chapter 20:

1. Guy's lead dog is blind and has to completely trust Guy to give commands so that the dog can continue forth. The opposite is true for McKenna and her team. What relationship does McKenna have with her lead dog, Mustard?
2. If you have a pet, describe the bond you have with it. If you don't, what kind of pet would you want and why?

Chapter 21:

1. What prank does Guy play on McKenna this time?
2. Why do you think all the dogs are howling?

Chapter 22:

1. What do you think happened to the mailbag?
2. What did you learn about Guy from the letter on page 141?

3. Why do you think Amazon might be interested in Desjardin Delivery? Why doesn't Amazon just deliver packages in their trucks in northern Ontario?

Chapter 23:

1. How did Guy guess that McKenna has sight issues?

Chapter 24:

1. What do you think a crevice in the ice is? What is the danger of a crevice?
2. How does McKenna find a cave to shelter Guy and both sets of dogs?

Chapter 25:

1. Why do you think McKenna is afraid to tell her parents about her limited sight?
2. Who do you think is at the cave entrance?

Chapter 26:

1. What does claustrophobic mean?
2. Why do you think the dogs start fighting?

Chapter 27:

1. Explain why each character needs to win- Guy, Harper, and McKenna?

Chapter 28:

1. How does a guide musher work?

2. Iditarod is a famous dog sled race that is still being done every year. How does technology help the racers?
3. What does it mean when McKenna realizes that Zesty (Guy's blind lead dog) is not disabled? Do you think that McKenna now realizes the same about herself?

Chapter 29:

1. What does Harper mean when she says, "She scratched?"
2. How did McKenna get her lost mailbag back?
3. Why do you think McKenna has decided to tell her parents that she is losing her eyesight?

Chapter 30:

1. How did McKenna's parents react to McKenna's news? Why was McKenna surprised?
2. Why is McKenna determined to finish the race?

Chapter 31:

1. Why do McKenna and Guy trade places with leading?
2. Why were the Cascades even more dangerous than before?

Chapter 32:

1. How does McKenna rescue Guy? Why does McKenna give Guy her dogsled to finish the race?

Chapter 33:

1. How does McKenna fix Guy's sled so she can get back into the race?
2. What does McKenna use to help guide the toboggan sled? How did she come up with the idea?

Chapter 34:

1. What prank does McKenna play on Guy?
2. Looking at the letter on page 219, what does everyone in Emma's class win?

Chapter 35:

1. Who won first place? Why did everyone laugh at Guy?
2. What does Guy want to do with McKenna now that the race is over?
3. Why is McKenna not disappointed that she did not place in the race?
4. What does McKenna win and why?
5. What is the theme of the story?