



Assignment

Determine a Central Idea from Informational Text

Topic: Man's Best Friends

Your Assignment:

Read the text. Then answer the question that follows.

Generations of Loyalty and Love

By Fred Calhoon

Dogs of all kinds have provided service, therapy, and friendship to their human companions for many generations. Some dogs are considered service animals. This means that they actually work for a human handler (the person in charge of the dog) and provide some kind of help to that person. The service dogs have a specific job to do, and they take their jobs very seriously. You may have seen a service dog before. They are the dogs that wear vests that say things like, "Please don't touch me. I'm working." Seeing-eye dogs are dogs that help people who have lost their vision. That means that they help blind people do daily things like work around the house and crossing the street. Military dogs are also service animals. They help the people who work in the military by doing things such as searching for trouble and making rescues.

Another type of dog is a therapy dog. They are also probably considered service dogs, but their specialty is overall comfort for people. Their main job is to make people feel better. Golden Retrievers are often trained as therapy dogs because they are really big and easy to hug. They are gentle which makes them the perfect breed for the job. Sometimes therapy dogs travel with their handlers on airplanes to help them get over their fear of flying. Other times people need just general comfort because something sad or scary has happened to them. Therapy dogs make sure that people feel happier!

Other dogs are just regular pets! These dogs don't really have a specific job other than being a member of the family! Pet dogs aren't usually expected to do much, if anything, around the house. They are there just for the fun of it. Just like the other service and therapy dogs, pet dogs are great company and give lots of love and attention to their handlers. No wonder dogs are considered man's best friends!

Answer this question:

What is the author's message about dogs being man's best friends? Explain using key details from the text to support your answer.

Stem Starters:

You may want to consider starting your response using one of these stems. You do not have to do so, but they are here to help you if you need them.

The author's central idea is...

The central idea is...

This passage is mostly about...

Your Response:
