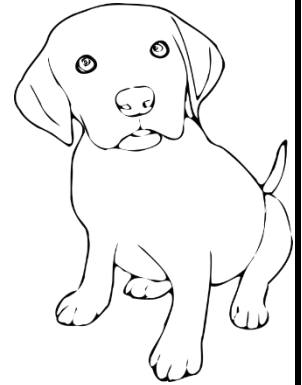


The Puppy



“Look how cute he is!” Jack cried, his nose pressed up against the display window of the local pet shop. “Wouldn’t it be great to have a puppy running around the house?”

His mum and dad looked at one another. “Come on, Jack. We’ve got to get a move on,” his dad replied quickly, hoping to change the subject. “We have to get to the shops before they close, otherwise there’ll be no dinner tonight.”

Both Jack’s mum and dad had hoped that that would have been the end of it, but Jack didn’t relent. He had dragged his parents back to the pet shop to see Pluto twice more the following week.

“Can we please buy him?” asked Jack. “He needs a good home and we’ve got the perfect backyard for him.”

His parents were prepared with an answer this time. “I don’t think so, Jack. Looking after a dog is a big responsibility,” his mum said.

“I’ll take such good care of him. I’ll feed him and brush him and take him out for walks,” replied Jack quickly.

Dad sighed. “Do you remember what happened with Rupert? Before we took him home you told us the same thing. After a couple of weeks, you stopped cleaning his cage. Just about every day you needed reminding to refill the seed for the poor little thing. In the end it was your mother and I who had to look after him.”

“This will be different. A dog will be a better friend. We can do things together,” Jack explained. But his mum and dad weren’t convinced. Jack wasn’t about to give up. Jack had borrowed books from the library on dog care. He had also made a point of doing all his chores without being reminded.

Two weeks had passed, and Jack’s parents were, to his surprise, beginning to seem more open to the idea of having a new pet. In fact, his parents had decided to give Jack the opportunity to show whether or not he was responsible enough to look after a dog.

“Mr and Mrs Clarke have agreed to lend us Buster for a week,” Dad explained. “You will be able to show us how well you look after him.”

Jack could barely contain his excitement. He wasn’t going to mess this up.

Task A

1. Where was the family going when Jack first saw the puppy?

2. Which word from the text means 'hold in'?

3. List 2 things Jack did to prove he really wanted a dog.

4. Do you think Jack enjoyed having Rupert as a pet? Why or why not?

5. Why did his mum and dad ask Mr and Mrs Clarke to borrow Buster for a week?

6. How do you think Jack will go looking after Buster? Use evidence from the text.

Task B

Pronouns take the place of nouns. For example:

Meg is my friend. She is 11. 'She' = Meg

Identify the nouns that the underlined **pronouns** take the place of. Use the text to help you.

1. "We still have to get to the shops before they close." 'they' = _____

2. After a couple of weeks, you stopped cleaning his cage. 'you' = _____

3. You will be able to show us how well you look after him." 'him' = _____

Task C

Contractions are words that have been joined. For example: **are + not = aren't**.

Find the **8 contractions** in the text and show which words have been joined to make them.

1. _____ + _____ = _____

2. _____ + _____ = _____

3. _____ + _____ = _____

4. _____ + _____ = _____

5. _____ + _____ = _____

6. _____ + _____ = _____

7. _____ + _____ = _____

8. _____ + _____ = _____

Challenge!

Draw a picture showing what the inside of the pet shop might look like.