

Pick a Word, Any Word

Here's a game that'll _____ kids' socks off.
(verb)

Character concept:

Being responsible includes taking care of those who depend on us.

Objective:

Students will identify basic responsibilities associated with caring for a pet. They include keeping pets safe and healthy and providing them with food, water, exercise, attention, and socialization.

Curriculum connection:

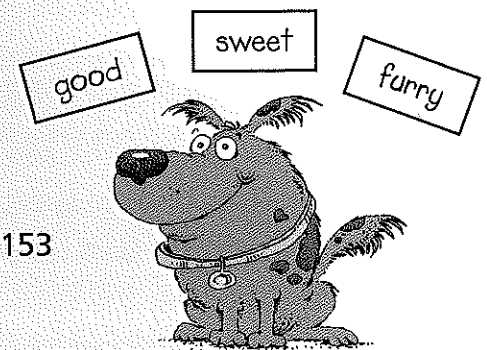
Students will read aloud narrative text fluently and accurately and with appropriate pacing, intonation, and expression. They will identify and correctly use various parts of speech, including verbs, nouns, and modifiers. (language arts)

National standards addressed:

language arts/English (applying knowledge, NL-ENG.K-12.6)

Materials:

- "Turnips Takes a Stroll" story on pages 148-150
- nouns, verbs, and adjectives cut from pages 151-153
- three envelopes



Activity:

Students will play a word game, similar to Mad Libs, in which they create a silly story about a boy walking his dog. They will then correct the story so that it reveals some basic information about proper dog care.

Procedure:



Prepare in advance: Copy the stories on pages 148-150, "Turnips Takes a Stroll." Also copy and cut apart the nouns, verbs, and adjectives on pages 151-153. Put each set of words into a labeled envelope: **nouns**, **verbs**, or **adjectives**.

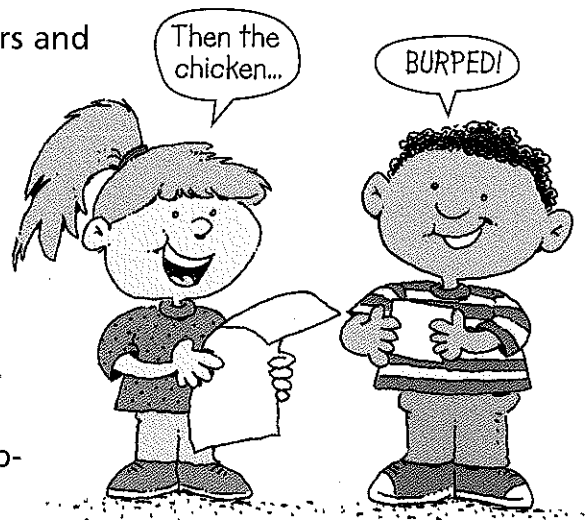
1. Call on a student to be the storyteller. Decide which of the three story versions you want to start with; for example, the one that is missing nouns.
Give your storyteller the envelope marked "nouns" and have him or her choose 15 classmates to line up at the front of the room. Each one should draw a card from the envelope, for a total of 15. They should not show the storyteller or the rest of the class their words.
2. The storyteller will read aloud "Turnips Takes a Stroll." The first time he or she comes to a blank, the first person in line must read his or her card out loud. (The storyteller can point to a student when there is a blank to be filled in.)
Continue this way to the end of the story. The story will not make sense and will, in fact, probably sound quite ridiculous!

3. Play other rounds of the game with new storytellers and other missing parts of speech. (You will need 12 students to draw verbs and 8 to draw adjectives.)

4. When you are done, collect all word cards and place them in three separate piles: nouns, verbs, adjectives. Read the story aloud again and have students fill in the blanks with the correct words. If they are uncertain about which words belong in the blanks, let them flip through the piles of possibilities.

5. Have students decide whether or not Matthew takes responsible care of Turnips. Instruct them to support their answer with evidence from the story. For example:

- Matthew takes his dog for a walk every day.
- Matthew makes sure his dog wears a collar and tags.
- He walks her on a leash.
- He keeps a firm hold on her leash when they are walking through busy traffic areas.
- He has trained his dog to be calm and friendly around people and pets.
- Matthew has trained his dog not to pull on her leash.
- Matthew gives his dog exercise and attention.
- Matthew feeds his dog.
- Matthew gives his dog fresh water.
- He keeps her indoors at night.



Answer Key

15 missing nouns

collar
ear
jar
mouth
car
truck
siren
air
path
sticks
friend
shadows
tummy
hug
water

12 missing verbs

clipped
scratched
tossed
continued
zoomed
strolled
knew
saw
jingled
jogged
fixed
curled

8 missing adjectives

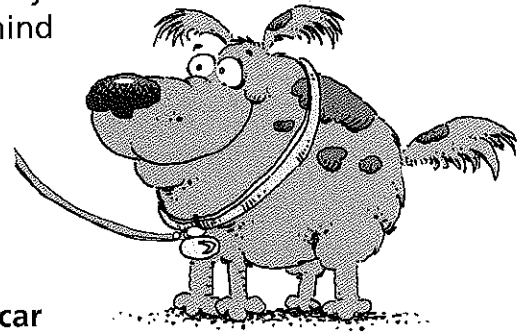
friendly
tasty
crunchy
firm
big
small
fuzzy
hungry

Turnips Takes a Stroll

Hi! My name is Turnips. I live with Matthew, who thinks I'm the best dog in the whole world. Every day, he takes me for a walk. Before we went outside today, he **clipped** a leash to my **collar**. Then off we went! Wahoo!

This afternoon, we went to Mr. Perry's store. Mr. Perry is very **friendly**. He told me I'm a good girl and **scratched** me behind the **ears**. Sometimes he reaches into a **jar** and hands me a **tasty, crunchy** treat. Yum!

When we walked into his shop today, Mr. Perry **tossed** me a dog biscuit. I caught it in my **mouth**. Matthew and Mr. Perry talked about model trains, which is a hobby they both enjoy. After they were done talking, Matthew and I left the store and **continued** around the block. One **car** after another **zoomed** by. As we turned the corner, a fire **truck** roared past us. The **siren** was very loud, but I wasn't scared. I knew I was safe with my friend, Matthew. He always keeps a **firm** hold on my leash, and he has taught me to walk by his side.



I love going for walks with Matthew. It's good exercise for both of us. We love the fresh air, sights, and sounds. This afternoon, Matthew checked out some cool stuff in store windows. I sniffed things in my **path** and picked up **sticks** along the way.

On our walks, Matthew talks to people he knows, and I greet other dogs on their walks. Some of them are **big**. Some are **small**. Some even look a little like their human **friends**, with gray whiskers, thick beards, long hair, or **fuzzy** eyebrows!

Today, we **strolled** a long time. Before we **knew** it, the sun had sunk low in the sky. Our **shadows** got longer. I felt my **hungry tummy** rumble. Matthew must have known it was time for supper, because he turned in the direction of our home.

When we **saw** our house, we picked up the pace. My tags **jingled** as we **jogged** up the driveway. Matthew's mom and dad were waiting for us on the front steps. "Hi, Matthew! Hi, Turnips!" they said and gave us both a big **hug**. "You both must be hungry. Why don't you go inside and get ready for supper?"

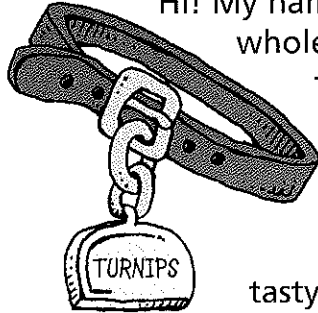
Before Matthew sat down at the table, he made sure I got my supper. He **fixed** me a bowl of dog food and poured a bowl of fresh **water**. After supper, I **curled** up near the table for a nap. I dozed off thinking about our walk and dreamed about what our next stroll would bring.

Extension:

Have your class look for evidence of responsible or irresponsible pet care in local newspapers. Each student should clip one item and bring it to class. Students should be prepared to discuss how it is an example of responsible or irresponsible pet care. Encourage students to look through several sections of the paper, including local and national news pages, op-ed, health, and classifieds.

Oops! Several words are missing below. Ask friends to name 15 nouns. (A **noun** is a word for a person, place, or thing, such as *teacher, school, chalk*). For a funny story, fill in the blanks with the nouns your friends come up with! Afterward, fill in the blanks with nouns that make sense.

Turnips Takes a Stroll



Hi! My name is Turnips. I live with Matthew, who thinks I'm the best dog in the whole world. Every day, he takes me for a walk. Before we went outside today, he clipped a leash to my _____. Then off we went!

Wahoo!

This afternoon, we went to Mr. Perry's store. Mr. Perry is very friendly. He told me I'm a good girl and scratched me behind the _____. Sometimes he reaches into a _____ and hands me a tasty, crunchy treat. Yum!

When we walked into his shop today, Mr. Perry tossed me a dog biscuit. I caught it in my _____. Matthew and Mr. Perry talked about model trains, which is a hobby they both enjoy. After they were done talking, Matthew and I left the store and continued around the block. One _____ after another zoomed by. As we turned the corner, a fire _____ roared past us. The _____ was very loud, but I wasn't scared. I knew I was safe with my friend, Matthew. He always keeps a firm hold on my leash, and he has taught me to walk by his side.

I love going for my walks with Matthew. It's good exercise for both of us. We love the fresh _____, sights, and sounds. This afternoon, Matthew checked out some cool stuff in store windows. I sniffed things in my _____ and picked up _____ along the way.

On our walks, Matthew talks to people he knows, and I greet other dogs on their walks. Some of them are big. Some are small. Some even look a little like their human _____ with gray whiskers, thick beards, long hair, or fuzzy eyebrows!

Today, we strolled a long time. Before we knew it, the sun had sunk low in the sky. Our _____ got longer, and I felt my hungry _____ rumble. Matthew must have known it was time for supper, because he turned in the direction of our home.

When we saw our house, we picked up the pace. My tags jingled as we jogged up the driveway. Matthew's mom and dad were waiting for us on the front steps. "Hi, Matthew! Hi, Turnips!" they said and gave us both a big _____. "You both must be hungry. Why don't you go inside and get ready for supper?"

Before Matthew sat down at the table, he made sure I got my supper. He fixed me a bowl of dog food and poured a bowl of fresh _____. After supper, I curled up near the table for a nap. I dozed off thinking about our walk and dreamed about what our next stroll would bring.

Oops! A dozen words are missing below. Ask friends to name 12 verbs in the past tense. (A **past-tense verb** tells what happened or what someone did, such as *jumped, thought, smiled, exploded*). For a funny story, fill in the blanks with the verbs your friends come up with! Then fill in the blanks with verbs that make sense.

Turnips Takes a Stroll

Hi! My name is Turnips. I live with Matthew, who thinks I'm the best dog in the whole world. Every day, he takes me for a walk. Before we went outside today, he _____ a leash to my collar. Then off we went! Wahoo!

This afternoon, we went to Mr. Perry's store. Mr. Perry is very friendly. He told me I'm a good girl and _____ me behind the ears. Sometimes he reaches into a jar and hands me a tasty, crunchy treat. Yum!

When we walked into his shop today, Mr. Perry _____ me a dog biscuit. I caught it in my mouth. Matthew and Mr. Perry talked about model trains, which is a hobby they both enjoy. After they were done talking, Matthew and I left the store and _____ around the block. One car after another _____ by. As we turned the corner, a fire truck roared past us. The siren was very loud, but I wasn't scared. I knew I was safe with my friend, Matthew. He always keeps a firm hold on my leash, and he has taught me to walk by his side.

I love going for walks with Matthew. It's good exercise for both of us. We love the fresh air, sights, and sounds. This afternoon, Matthew checked out some cool stuff in store windows. I sniffed things in my path and picked up sticks along the way.

On our walks, Matthew talks to people he knows, and I greet other dogs on their walks. Some of them are big. Some are small. Some even look a little like their human friends, with gray whiskers, thick beards, long hair, or fuzzy eyebrows!

Today, we _____ a long time. Before we _____ it, the sun had sunk low in the sky. Our shadows got longer. I felt my hungry tummy rumble. Matthew must have known it was time for supper, because he turned in the direction of our home.

When we _____ our house, we picked up the pace. My tags _____ as we _____ up the driveway. Matthew's mom and dad were waiting for us on the front steps. "Hi, Matthew! Hi, Turnips!" they said and gave us both a big hug. "You both must be hungry. Why don't you go inside and get ready for supper?"

Before Matthew sat down at the table, he made sure I got my supper. He _____ me a bowl of dog food and poured a bowl of fresh water. After supper, I _____ up near the table for a nap. I dozed off thinking about our walk and dreamed about what our next stroll would bring.



Oops! Several words are missing below. Ask friends to name 8 adjectives. (An **adjective** is a word that describes someone or something, such as *smart, crunchy, pretty, orange*). For a funny story, fill in the blanks with the adjectives your friends come up with! Then fill in the blanks with adjectives that make sense.

Turnips Takes a Stroll

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This afternoon, we went to Mr. Perry's store. Mr. Perry is very _____. He told me I'm a good girl and scratched me behind the ears. Sometimes he reaches into a jar and hands me a _____, _____ treat. Yum!

When we walked into his shop today, Mr. Perry tossed me a dog biscuit. I caught it in my mouth. Matthew and Mr. Perry talked about model trains, which is a hobby they both enjoy. After they were done talking, Matthew and I left the store and continued around the block. One car after another zoomed by. As we turned the corner, a fire truck roared past us. The siren was very loud, but I wasn't scared. I knew I was safe with my friend, Matthew. He always keeps a _____ hold on my leash, and he has taught me to walk by his side.

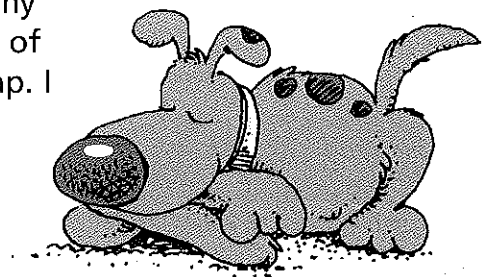
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Today, we strolled a long time. Before we knew it, the sun had sunk low in the sky. Our shadows got longer, and I felt my _____ tummy rumble. Matthew must have known it was time for supper, because he turned in the direction of our home.

When we saw our house, we picked up the pace. My tags jingled as we jogged up the driveway. Matthew's mom and dad were waiting for us on the front steps. "Hi, Matthew! Hi, Turnips!" they said and gave us both a big hug. "You both must be hungry. Why don't you go inside and get ready for supper?"

Before Matthew sat down at the table, he made sure I got my supper. He fixed me a bowl of dog food and poured a bowl of fresh water. After supper, I curled up near the table for a nap. I dozed off thinking about our walk and dreamed about what our next stroll would bring.



Handout: Lessons in Responsibility

Note to instructor: Copy and cut apart this list of **nouns**. Place in an envelope for 15 students to draw from. Use with "Turnips Takes a Stroll" noun activity, page 148.

air	friends
car	path
cheese	pizza
collar	shadow
ears	shoes
face	siren
grandmother	sticks
gravy	toes
hat	truck
hug	tummy
jar	wart
lemon	water
mouth	eyeball

Handout: Lessons in Responsibility

Note to instructor: Copy and cut apart this list of verbs. Place in an envelope for 12 students to draw from. Use with "Turnips Takes a Stroll" verb activity, page 149.

ate	pounded
attached	saw
baked	scratched
barked	sneezed
clapped	sniffed
continued	splashed
curled	squeaked
danced	squirmed
got	strolled
jingled	tossed
jogged	wiggled
knew	wobbled
knitted	zoomed

Handout: Lessons in Responsibility

Note to instructor: Copy and cut apart this list of **adjectives**. Place in an envelope for 8 students to draw from. Use with "Turnips Takes a Stroll" adjective activity, page 150.

big	plump
boring	ready
bubbly	rotten
cranky	scary
crunchy	shiny
crusty	slippery
fancy	small
firm	smelly
friendly	soupy
fuzzy	spicy
greasy	tasty
hungry	wet
moldy	wild