

## Teacher's Guide for ODYSSEY

October 2013: "Why Can't We Be Friends? Cat vs. Dog Wars"

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### **Teacher's Note:**

This guide contains project ideas, short answer, extended response, fill-in, and true/false with correction. The variation is designed to have the students think critically, as well as to test their comprehension. An answer key to the short answer sections can be found at the end of the guide.

### **Extended Response: Comprehension & Critical Thinking**

The questions below can be used as written, simply answered in complete sentences or easily transformed into longer essay (ELA) style questions, or even research topics. In any case, have the students support their answers with details from the text or use critical thinking skills to create a thorough and interesting answer. The questions, essays and projects have been aligned with the **Common Core Standards**. Consider the level of your students when deciding how to use the questions.

### **"MEOW! WOOF!" p. 6-7**

1. What do cats and dogs have in common?
2. Why is it commonly believed that cats and dogs are natural enemies?
3. What are the findings of the research done at Tel Aviv University?
4. What effect do pets that don't get along have on their family members?
5. In what way do dog/cat differences become more evident with rivalry coming into play?
6. Explain the communication differences between cats and dogs.
7. Explain the social aspects of cats and dogs.

### **"Raining Cat and Dog Facts" p. 8-9**

1. What is the difference between the life span of a dog and cat? What factors are considered?
2. Make a T-chart to compare the purpose of cat and dog whiskers.
3. What names appear on both the top 10 dog and cat lists.
4. What are some of the household dangers for dogs and cats?
5. Why can't cats taste sweets?
6. Summarize Laiki's sad story. Why was the dog sent to space? Do you agree or disagree with the reasons stated?

### **"Dawn of the Dog" p. 10-12**

1. What animal family are dogs closely related to?

2. Name some specific animals that dogs are related to.
3. What are some possible theories about when dogs were domesticated?
4. What did scientists find when they compared DNA segments from modern dogs, ancient American dogs, Eurasian wolves and American wolves?
5. What are some of the oldest known dog breeds?
6. Why would scientists spend an enormous amount of time and effort to decipher a dog's genetic code?

### **"Cute, Furry, Sweet...and Ferocious" p. 13-15**

1. What harsh lesson did Roy Horn learn while performing one of his famous tiger acts?
2. What is an ethologist?
3. When do you think that cats first began interacting with humans? What is the historical context?
4. When did felines first become popular indoor pets?
5. How do the hunting instincts of dog and cat ancestors differ?
6. What animals prey on the cat?
7. Explain what is happening physically in a cat's body when it is hunting. How does it attack with precision?

### **"Your Dog = Your BFF" p. 16-19**

1. Read through the list of 'nonbarking' benefits that we reap from pets. Choose a few and provide an example of such a trait that you experienced or witnessed.
2. What are some of the health benefits that dogs have been shown to have on humans?
3. What do studies show regarding the elderly and the use of therapy dogs?
4. Explain the findings of the experiment using AIBO, the robo-dog.
5. What effect can pet dogs have on a person's serotonin and cortisol levels?
6. How can pets be a catalyst for social interaction?

### **"Good Vibrations" p. 20-23**

*Mark the following statements TRUE or FALSE. Provide the correct answer if FALSE.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. A feline's purr only signals a friendly social mood.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. A purr's sound is the result of vibrations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. A cat's purr results from the movement of his diaphragm and his voice box.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. A cat can only purr while breathing out.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The frequency of vibrations can be measured in hertz.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Humans can hear frequencies up to 1000,000 Hz.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Scientists have found that exposure to high intensity, high frequency vibrations increase bone density.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Purring may stimulate bone growth, increase muscle and ligament strength, and maintain good health.

### **"Dogs That Make a Difference" p. 24-26**

1. What is the mission of Pet Partners?
2. What is the size of the Pet Partners organization?
3. Describe the process of the training program at Pet Partners.
4. What is the purpose of the aptitude tests?
5. How long do pets usually remain therapy dogs? What factors influence the duration?

### **"Cats Who Work Like Dogs" p. 28-29**

*Read the article on pages 28-29. Fill in the name of the cat that is described by the sentences below.*

**PIGLET   GIDGET   BROWSER   MATILDA   LORENZO**

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. She is the director of Guest Relations at the Algonquin Hotel in New York City.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. This cat greets patrons at Minnesota's Pine River Library.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. This cat is the resident feline at Guide Dogs Victoria and helps to prepare the canines for a life of service.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. A feline model who uses his fame as a 'spokescat' for animal rescue.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. A sphynx who is one of the few certified therapy cats in the country.

### **"Basic Dog Training" p. 30-31**

1. What are the two hurdles of basic dog training?
2. What is 'clicker training'?
3. How does 'Click 'n' Treat' differ from traditional training methods?
4. What does a click tell your dog?

### **"Sit, Kitty, Sit!"**

1. How do you use conditioning to train a cat?
2. What kinds of positive reinforcement reward are appropriate for training?
3. What is 'shaping'?
4. How long should training sessions for cats be?
5. Why shouldn't you repeat the word you are trying reinforce?

### **"Cats vs. Dogs" p. 38-41**

*Read the article in its entirety and then fill in the blanks. Refer back to the text if necessary.*

1. Elizabeth Marshall Thomas has studied animals as a trained \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Thomas started publishing books on cats, dogs, \_\_\_\_\_, and other creatures that share humans' worlds.
3. When Thomas first started writing, publishers were producing very few books on animal studies because the topics didn't seem \_\_\_\_\_ enough.
4. Thomas wrote about both domestic and \_\_\_\_\_ animals, based on what she learned by observing them and seeing what they had in common with humans.
5. Thomas' first best-selling animal book was about \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Dogs have a reputation for being more \_\_\_\_\_ than cats, though this is not necessarily true.
7. The historical reasons that humans developed a liking for dogs is that back in the Paleolithic era people in northern regions \_\_\_\_\_ the same animals as wolves did.
8. People in the Middle East were growing grain, which was stored in granaries. Cats were used to hunt the \_\_\_\_\_ that ate their grain.

### **ANSWER KEY**

#### **"Good Vibrations"**

1. *False, also signals fear, pain or death*
2. *True*
3. *True*
4. *False, while breathing out or in*
5. *True*
6. *False, cats*
7. *False, low intensity, low frequency*
8. *True*

#### **"Cats Who Work Like Dogs"**

1. *Matilda*
2. *Browswer*
3. *Gidget*
4. *Lorenzo*
5. *Piglet*

#### **"Cats vs. Dogs"**

1. *anthropologist*
2. *deer*
3. *intellectual*
4. *wild*
5. *dogs*
6. *social*

7. *hunted*
8. *mice*