

A Study Guide
for
Toby's Story

A Puppy Tale written by
W. Bruce Cameron

Study Guide Written by Judith Robben, M.A. in Education

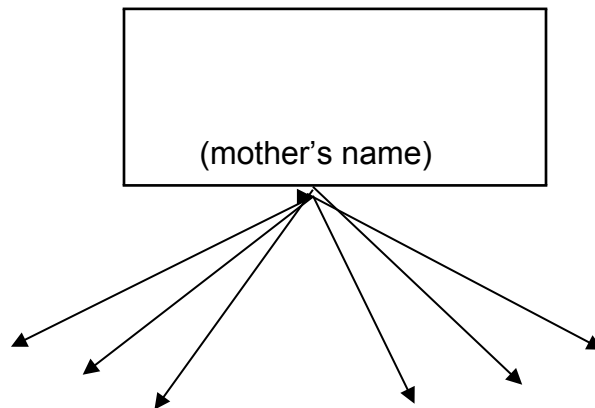
Chapter 1

(L.4.4) Vocabulary: fondly, indignantly, barreled

1. (RI.4.1 Details & L.4.5 Literal Language) What is Toby describing when he says, "One of them actually had a person riding on its back"? (p. 12)

2. (RI.4.1 Details) What details in the text tell the reader that Walt is a nice man and cares about dogs? Cite at least 2 details found on p. 13.

3. (RI.4.1 Details) Fill in the chart naming all of Toby's littermates.



TOBY	(sister)	(sister)	(sister)	(brother)	(brother)
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4. (RL.4.1 Inference based on textual evidence) Author W. Bruce Cameron provides several clues about the setting, but Toby does not say exactly where the story is taking place. Based on the several clues, where does Toby's story begin?

Location: _____

Evidence #1	Evidence #2	Evidence #3	Evidence #4	Evidence #5	Evidence #6

Chapter 2

(L.4.4) Vocabulary: eagerly, gnaw, seize

1. (W.4.7 Research) Why does Walt have the beagle puppies chase the car? Research the beagle breed and what it is known for when helping humans.

2. (W.4.3.C Summary) Summarize why Toby is feeling so sad and neglected at the end of Chapter 2. Be sure to use transition words in your summary like first, second, third, finally.

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(L.4.4) Vocabulary: bewildering, therapy, therapist

1. (RL.4.3 Character Analysis) Use the chart below to compare Toby's environments and actions in Chapters 1 and 2 and how things change for Toby in Chapter 3.

	Chapters 1 and 2	Chapter 3
Toby's smells		
Toby's sights		
Toby's behaviors		

2. (W.4.9 Describe Character/Setting) Using your answers in the above chart, explain how Toby's life changes so quickly once he is adopted by Mona.

(L.4.4) Vocabulary: raspy, keenly, encountered, hospice

1. (RF.4.C Context Clues) What do you think the “metal cage” is when Toby describes how Grandad got to his feet? What are the clue words that Toby uses to help the reader make this conclusion?

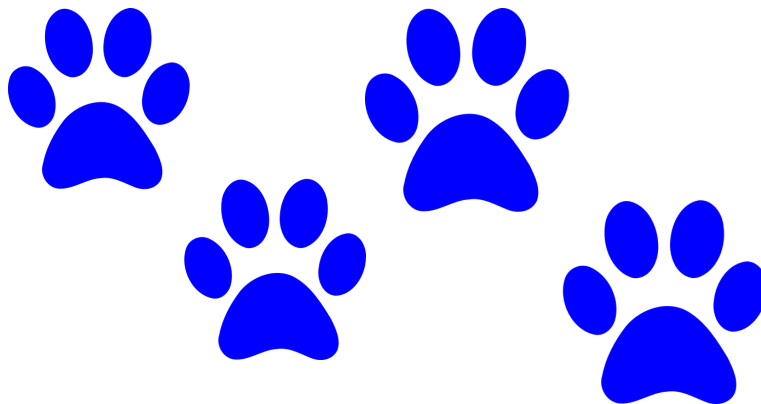
Metal cage is actually called a _____.

Clue words or phrases _____

2. (RI.4.1 Details) Mona talks to Toby as they enter the hospice wing of the nursing home. What detail explains why Mona thinks Toby will do great work as a therapy dog?

3. (RI.4.1 Details) Explain why Toby is so confused and cannot figure out who her family is. Use a detail in the text to support your answer.

4. (Prediction) Make a prediction based on Toby’s continuous itching of his paws. What do you think is causing the itching?



Chapter 5

(L.4.4) Vocabulary: diagnose, grudge, alertly, ricocheted

1. (RI.4.1 Details) What is the veterinarian's first guess as to what is causing Toby's itching?

2. (RI.4.1 Details) Why does Mona feel so bad and begin to cry? Support your answer with a detail from the text.

3. (RL.4.1 Inference) "Wouldn't the world be a better place if people forgave each other as easily as dogs do?" (p.56) What does this question say about humans? Explain your inference in complete sentences.

4. (W.4.3.c Summarizing) Summarize Toby and his playtime with Grandad and Trent. Be sure to use transition words like first, second, and last. In addition, be sure your details show how much better Toby feels.



"Gluten-free, please."

Chapter 6

(L.4.4) Vocabulary: amused

1. (RI.4.1 Details) Explain two different ways that Toby becomes easily distracted during training with Mona.

Distraction #1 _____

Distraction #2 _____

2. (RL.4.1 Inference) Toby begins to learn a few commands in Chapter 6, but he really struggles with “STAY.” Why do you think “STAY” is so hard for Toby? Use a detail from the text to support your answer.

3. (RL.4.3 Character Analysis and L.4.1 Adjectives) Toby’s behavior begins to change in Chapter 6. Use the chart to compare Toby’s behavior before and after he eats gluten-free dog food.

Regular Dog Food	Gluten-Free Dog Food
adj.	adj.
adj.	adj.
adj.	adj.

Chapter 7

(L.4.4) Vocabulary: naturally, affection, contentment, triumphantly

1. (RI.4.5 Problem/Solution) Why does Fran say, “You can’t train a beagle not to be a beagle.” (p. 77) Understanding what beagles are known for, explain why Mona is having a problem with training Toby. Then include a possible solution.

Problem:

Possible Solution:

2. (RI.4.1 Details) Dorothy's mood changes once she starts interacting with Toby. How can the reader tell that Toby has brought so much joy and life to Dorothy? Use text details to support your answer.



Chapter 8

(L.4.4) Vocabulary: improvise, reluctantly, discouraged

- 1) (RI.4.1 Details) Fran becomes the villain in Chapter 8 when she decides to tell Mona that Toby is too much trouble for the nursing home. List 3 reasons why Fran says Toby must find a new home?

- 2) (RL.4.3 Character Analysis) Explain why Fran can now be considered the villain in Toby's Story. Be sure to use at least 2 character traits that describe her attitude towards Toby.

- 3) (Prediction based on Characters' Actions) What do you think will happen to Toby in Chapter 9? Do you think Fran will have Toby adopted by someone else or do you think Mona will somehow find a solution to the problem? Write your prediction below.

Chapter 9

(L.4.4) Vocabulary: quarry, eagerly

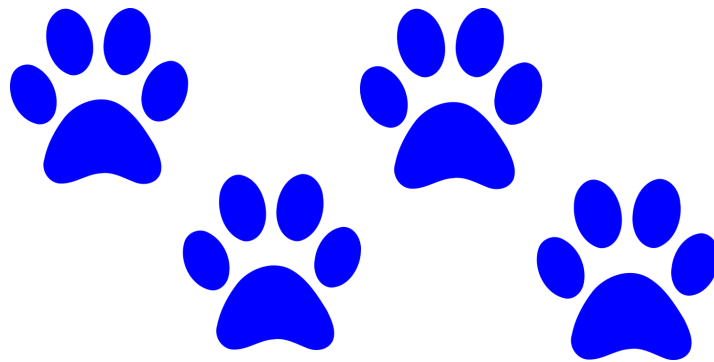
1. (RI.4.1 Details) Based on Toby's struggle on p. 98, why is Trent thinking he may not make the cross-country team? Use as least one detail to support Toby's thought.

2. (RL.4.1 Inference) Based on the descriptions of the "bouncy animal" that Toby loves to chase, what kind of animal is this? What words or phrases help you make this inference?

Type of animal _____

Details to support this guess _____

4. (RI.4.1 Details) Toby senses that Trent is having some difficulty with his running. What detail on pg. 100 informs the reader that Toby can sense people's feelings?



Chapter 10

(L.4.4) Vocabulary: sternly, facility

1. (RI.4.4 Unknown Words) Grandad says, "Cross-country isn't a sprinter's game, boy. It's about determination." (p. 112) What does the word determination mean? Write the definition and then describe a time when your determination helped you accomplish a difficult task.

Determination _____

Text of self-description _____

2. (RI.4.1 Details) Toby is well-liked by the new man in Chapter 10 and his comment to Fran helps Toby look better to Fran. What comment does this man make to Fran on pg. 115 that proves Toby can help people?



Chapter 11

(L.4.4) Vocabulary: contraption

1. (RL.4.1 Inference Based on Details) What kind of room does Toby explore on p. 118? List at least 2 clues that help the reader make this inference.

Type of Room: _____

Clue #1 _____

Clue # 2 _____

2. (RL.4.3 Character Analysis) Explain why Toby is confused and cannot figure out who his person is. Be sure to give a text detail that explains why he is confused.

3. (RI.4.1 Details) Why can't Trent keep Toby as a pet, even though Toby loves to run with Trent and the boys?



Chapter 12

(L.4.4) Vocabulary: compromise, bewildering, quivered

1. (RI.4.4 Unknown Words) Fran says, “A compromise” (p. 133) when she describes the metal thing. What is a compromise? Explain what this compromise is between Fran and Mona.

Compromise _____

Explanation of Fran’s compromise _____

2. (RL.4.1 Inference) What can you infer about Toby ripping the bed apart once left alone in the crate? Why do you think he is doing this?

3. (Text to self) Describe a time when you experienced feelings of loneliness like Toby did once, locked in the crate. What did you do to help the lonely feelings go away?



Chapter 13

(L.4.4) Vocabulary: exasperated, puzzlement

1. (RI.4.1 Details) Since the crate did not work out because Toby howled all night, what does Mona suggest as the solution?

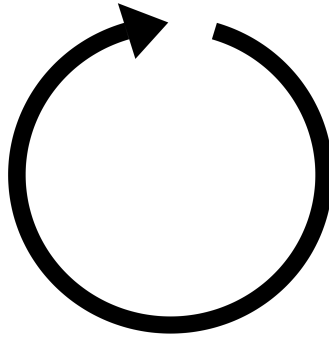
2. (RI.4.1 Details) Why does Trent want Toby to run with him by himself for a while?

3. (RI.4.2 Summarize) Summarize in your own words how Toby helps the patient named Martin on pgs. 148-149. Use transition words in your summary.

Chapter 14

(L.4.4) Vocabulary: reunion, steadily

1. (L.4.5.B Idioms) Toby runs to his first home in Chapter 14. This can be called “full circle,” which is an idiom for Toby’s adventurous life. Label the circle below to explain how Toby has made a full circle in his running.



(Chapter 14)

1st home _____

2nd home _____

2. (RI.4.1 Details) Walt was so happy to hear that Toby had a purpose. What is Toby’s purpose as revealed in Chapter 14?

3. (RL.4.1 Inference) What can you infer about why Toby has such a hard time learning “Lie Still”? Use a detail from the text in your answer.

Chapter 15

(L.4.4) Vocabulary: hurdled, oblige, faltering, soberly

1. (RL.4.3 Descriptive Dialogue) W. Bruce Cameron writes, "On the other side of the fence were some of those enormous black-and-white dogs. . . . The big dogs ignored me. They usually did. I wondered why they never barked back." (p. 165) What kind of animal were the big dogs?

2. (RI.4.1 Details) How can you tell that Toby thinks the cross-country race is just a fun game? Write at least one detail from the text that supports Toby's thinking.

3. (L.4.4.A Using Context) "Trent did not. He ran steadily, not fast but never faltering. He drew close to the other boy." (p. 167) What is the meaning of the word faltering? What clue word helps you know what the word means?

Faltering means _____
Clue word _____

4. (W.4.3.C Summary) Summarize Trent's cross-country race and how Toby helped Trent win the race. Be sure to use transition words like first, second, third, finally, etc.

Chapter 16

- 1) (RL.4.1 Inference) What can you infer about Toby's statement, "Suddenly I understood that I was the luckiest dog in the world. And that was wonderful." (p.178) Why do you think Toby said this at the end of the book? What details prove your inference? Use details from pg. 178 to support your inference.

2) (W.4.9 Character Analysis) At the beginning of Toby's Story, no one wanted to adopt Toby because he was not an active puppy. At the end of Toby's Story, Toby gave comfort to people in different ways.

Explain how Toby's character and purpose changed throughout the story. Be sure to explain how Toby helped at least 2 people in different ways using details from the text.

