



A STUDY GUIDE FOR BELLA'S STORY

A DOG'S PURPOSE PUPPY TALE

W. Bruce Cameron

STUDY GUIDE WRITTEN BY
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CHAPTER one

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

frantically
hollow
invading
automatically
urgently

1. **(RL.4.6 POINT OF VIEW)** Who is the narrator in *Bella's Story*? List clue pronouns that help you know who is telling the story.
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What kind of dog breed is Bella?
3. **(L.4.1 ADJECTIVES)** W. Bruce Cameron uses words that bring excitement and fear into the end of Chapter 1. List at least 4 of these adjectives.



CHAPTER TWO

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

nestled
wary
bristle
unbearable
defiance
astonishment
vaguely

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** How was the boy different from the other people who had been looking into Bella's hole? Use details from the text to explain. Pg. 18)
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why did the man yell to the boy, "You crazy or something?" Pg. 22) Explain using a detail from the text in your answer.
3. **(W.4.1.A OPINION WRITING)** In your opinion, do you think Bella was smart to escape out of her den? Give at least 2 reasons to support your answer.



CHAPTER THREE

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

bewildering
blundered
contentedly
seized
haunches

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Who are the two new characters that are introduced by names in Chapter 3? Where does Olivia's mom work?
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why does Olivia think Lucas is very brave?
3. **(RI.4.1 INFERENCE AND W.4.2.B QUOTATIONS)** What statement on p. 30 helps the reader know that Olivia's mom is aware of Bella hiding under Lucas's coat? Use quotation marks to cite the sentence.
4. **(RI.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why does Lucas think he might be in trouble with his mom when he brings Bella home? Use a detail from the text to support your answer.

CHAPTER FOUR

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

abandoned
insanely
swoon

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why does Lucas's mom say they can't have a dog?
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Explain why Lucas's mom is at home and hurt. Where was she when she got hurt and what role did she play when she got hurt?
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** List some of the games that Lucas and Olivia would play with Bella.
4. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What game did Bella learn at the park when she caught the ball in the air?
5. **(RI.4.1 INFERENCE)** What do you think the special stick is when W. Bruce Cameron writes, "... and sometimes walking around, leaning on a special stick that I learned early on not to chew." Pg. 42)





CHAPTER FIVE

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

berserk
reunions
suspiciously
strained
sternly
harshly
curtly
protested

1. **(L.4.1 ADJECTIVES)** What are at least 3 adjectives that W. Bruce Cameron uses to describe Bella's berserk behavior once Lucas gets home from school?
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Explain why Bella loved summer but did not like school. Use details in the text in your answer.
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why did the man and woman not like Bella? Give two different reasons.
4. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Where is the ONLY place you can legally have a pit bull in Lucas's city?
5. **(W.4.1.A OPINION WRITING)** Hat Man tells Lucas that he should find someone who doesn't live within city limits to take Bella away. Do you agree with Hat Man? Should Lucas give Bella away? Write your opinion below and be sure to give two reasons to support your opinion.

CHAPTER SIX

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

ruefully
baffled
tensely
perplexed
intently

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why does Lucas say, "A year? Mom, we can't keep Bella inside our home for a year"? Pg. 53)
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why does Bella dislike the "No Bark" game? Why did it cause frustration for Bella?
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why do you think it is so important for Bella to learn "Go Home"? What are Lucas, Olivia, Audrey, and Mom trying to plan for with this important trick?





CHAPTER seven

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

suggestively
circumstances
coiled
coax
imaginable



1. **(W.4.7 RESEARCH)** Using a safe internet search site, research what VA stands for, the definition of a veteran, and who the VA serves.
VA is short for: _____
A Veteran is: _____
The VA supports _____
2. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think Lucas only takes Bella out for a walk in darkness during the early morning and night?
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What made Bella jump through the screen and run?
4. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Where do you think the Hat Man was taking Bella in the truck? Use two clues from the text that help you make this inference.

CHAPTER EIGHT

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

hoarse
appealingly

1. **(RL.4.3 CHARACTER ANALYSIS)** The Hat Man brings Bella home instead of taking her to the shelter. What can you infer about the Hat Man? Choose a character trait and explain why you chose this character trait.

Examples of Character Traits:
LOYAL, FRIENDLY, DETERMINED, LOVING, TRUSTING, KIND, HONEST
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why will Bella be safe with Audrey's sister, Loretta? Use a detail from the text in your answer.
3. **(W.4.7 RESEARCH)** Using a safe internet site, research why a city might have a ban on owning a pit bull dog breed. Explain your findings below.
4. **(W.4.1.A OPINION)** What is your opinion about a ban on pit bulls? Do you think every Pit Bull should be banned in every city? Is every Pit Bull a dangerous dog? Why or why not? Be sure to support your opinion with at least 2 reasons.



CHAPTER NINE

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

sorrow
structure

1. **(RI.4.1/ RL.4.3 DETAILS AND CHARACTER ANALYSIS)** There are several new characters introduced in Chapter 9 (Uncle José, Aunt Loretta, Rascal, Grump, Bird). Choose a few words from the text to describe each new character.
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why does Bella say, “What kind of place was this, where the birds were in charge?” Pg. 77) Use a detail from the text to explain why Bella asks this question.
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What is the good news that José shares in this chapter? Who is coming and why?
4. **(RL.4.6 POINT OF VIEW)** Bella describes a machine that José uses in his yard as a strange-smelling, noisy metal machine that goes back and forth across the grass. Pg. 80) What do you think humans call this machine?
5. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why does Bella feel she has a purpose once she escapes the yard? What is her purpose?

CHAPTER TEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

anxious
oblige
bounded

- **(RI.4.2/W.4.3.C SUMMARIZE AND TIME ORDER WRITING)** Bella meets two boys named Warren and Dude. Summarize what happens when the boys offer Bella some beef jerky. Be sure to use time order words like first, second, third, and finally in your summary.





CHAPTER ELEVEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

investigate

keen

delectable

edible

1. **(RL.4.3 CHARACTER TRAITS)** Bella starts exploring in Chapter 11 and tracking scents. As she explores, she shows Character traits. List three different personality traits Bella shows in Chapter 11 and explain her behavior that supports the trait.

Character Trait #1 _____

Bella shows this by _____

Character Trait #2 _____

Bella shows this by _____

Character Trait #3 _____

Bella shows this by _____

Examples of Character Traits:

LOYAL, FRIENDLY, DETERMINED, LOVING, TRUSTING, KIND, HONEST

CHAPTER TWELVE

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

succulent

content

crested

boulders

poaching

cringed

carcass

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** How did Bella find some food? Explain what she did and what kind of food she enjoyed by citing examples from the text.
2. **(W.4.7 RESEARCH AND RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Using a safe internet site, research the definition of poaching. Then explain why the men who shot the cougar would do such a thing.
3. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think the smaller cat hiding in the bushes is afraid and wants help from Bella?
4. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why does Bella already know what the big kitten needs? (Think about who Bella lived with in Chapter 1.)





CHAPTER THIRTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

urge
delicate
nimble
wary
jutting

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Explain how Bella and Big Kitten find food in three different ways in Chapter 13.
2. **(RL.4.3 CHARACTER TRAITS)** What character trait comes through strong at the end of Chapter 13? Explain why Bella has to be this way.



CHAPTER FOURTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

fury
lure
tantalizing
retreating

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What is the danger that Bella and Big Kitten encounter in Chapter 14? Use details from the text to explain this danger.
2. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** How is Bella able to infer that the two new men are kind men and not mean men who would take her away from Lucas? Use details to support Bella's inference and decision about these men.
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** How do the men know that Bella is not a stray, but instead is lost?



CHAPTER FIFTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

accountant
snarl
devoured

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What did Furry Face drop and leave behind when he ran to the truck? Why is this item so important for Bella?
2. **(W.4.7 RESEARCH)** Using a safe internet site, research some facts about cougars.
 - What do cougars eat?
 - Where do cougars like to make their dens?
 - How long do cougars live?
 - How far can a cougar leap?
 - Do cougars like to live by themselves?
 - What state has the largest cougar population?
 - What are some other names the cougar is known for?

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

steeper
trudged
startled
avalanche
floundering



1. **(RI.4.5 PROBLEM/SOLUTION)** “Snow Do Your Business” was fun for Bella as she played with Big Cat on the ice. However, the snow eventually became a problem for Bella when playing “Chase-Me.” Pg. 133) Explain why the snow becomes a problem with a detail from the text. Pg. 134)
2. **(RL.4.6 POINT OF VIEW)** “A man was wearing very long shoes and clutched poles in his hands.” Pg. 136) This is Bella’s description of the human up on the hill. From Bella’s point of view, what are these human’s shoes and poles in reality?
3. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do the men yell, “Get out of there!”? Pg. 137) Look up the meaning of “avalanche” and use the definition in your answer.
4. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why does Bella say, “I lost all sense of up and down. I was rolling and falling. I could see nothing and my paws could not find the ground.” Pg. 138) What can you infer has happened to Bella?



CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

exhaustion
instinct
distress
lurch
yearning

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Explain how Bella and the male dog become heroes in Chapter 17.
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Explain how the flat sled is used.
3. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Thinking back to Chapter 15 when Bella's collar was left behind, why is Bella's collar important as Bella meets Bread Man and Bread Man says, "What about you? Where's your collar, huh?"
4. **(RL.4.3 CHARACTER ANALYSIS)** What do both Bella and Dutch want as they are led on a rope by Bread Man? What character trait best describes this yearning?



CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

disconnected
reluctantly
coincidence
fractured

1. **(RL.4.6 POINT OF VIEW)** From Bella's point of view, she describes a "hole in the wall with pieces of burned wood?" Pg. 150) What is the hole in the wall in reality?
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why does Kurch call Bella a "coincidence" when he sees her? Why does this make Gavin and Taylor more confused?
3. **(RI. 4.1 DETAILS)** Why does Kurch not want to keep Dutch when he is returned to Kurch? Use a detail from the text to explain.



CHAPTER NINETEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

blundered
intentioned
loped
galloping
vast
cautiously

- **(W.4.1.A OPINION WRITING)** In your opinion, does Bella make a good or bad decision when deciding to leave Gavin and Taylor and take off down the trail doing, “Go Home”? Be sure to support your opinions with text details.

CHAPTER TWENTY

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

briskly
slunk
bellowed
panic

1. **(W.4.3.C SUMMARIZE USING TIME ORDER TRANSITION WORDS)** Bella makes quite a scene after wandering through the grocery store in Chapter 20. Summarize her adventure in the grocery store using transition words like first, second, third, and finally.
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Explain how Bella finds a bag of dog food and is able to eat as much as she wants.





CHAPTER TWENTY-one

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

desperate
accustomed
massive
basking



1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What kind of animal pack is following and hunting Bella? Bella is calling this animal a small bad dog and learned how to defend herself from this animal earlier in Chapter 13. What do you think this animal could be?
2. **(RL.4.3 CHARACTER TRAITS)** As Big Kitten rescues Bella from the bad dogs, what character traits best describe Big Kitten? Choose three character traits for Big Kitten and provide evidence for your reasons.
Character Trait #1 _____
Evidence in Text _____

Character Trait #2 _____
Evidence in Text _____

Character Trait #3 _____
Evidence in Text _____

Examples of Character Traits:

LOYAL, FRIENDLY, DETERMINED, LOVING, TRUSTING, KIND, HONEST

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

contentment
scuttling

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** How does Bella show her affection for Big Kitten before leaving to do Go Home? Write details from the text.
2. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think Big Kitten decides not to follow Bella down the hill and into the town? (Think about the cougar species and where they like to live.)
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** In Chapter 22, Bella proves just how smart she is and how she learns from past experiences. When the lady with the long metal pole with treats approaches Bella, how does Bella decide to respond?
4. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** List some evidence in the text that shows Bella is still missing her life in the wild as she sleeps under the bench in the park. (Pg. 193)



CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

expectantly

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** How does Bella know she did Go Home even though many things are different? Write details familiar to Bella below.
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Mother Cat looks plumper than when Bella last saw her. Use the chart to fill in all the different names, places, and types of food Mother Cat was finding.

CAT'S NAME	MOTHER CAT	DAISY	PRINCESS	NO NAME	MOLLY
HOUSE DESCRIPTION	Bella sees her under the deck	Deck with glass door		No one is home on front porch	
TYPE OF FOOD	No food		Bowlful of food		

3. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Mother Cat is called Molly at the last house. What can you infer about the lady who says, "What a sweet dog! But no collar, huh? I think you need some help, baby." Pg. 202) Give a reason for your inference.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

defensively
agitated

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** How many miles did Bella travel to finally find Lucas?
2. **(SL.4.5 AUDIO/VISUAL PRESENTATION AND RL.4.3 CHARACTER ANALYSIS)** Choose a presentation source such as a PowerPoint or video production to present Bella's character traits. Be sure to provide an example of Bella's behavior as evidence for each character trait. Use the following rubric to guide yourself through this activity.





CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

(SL.4.5 AUDIO/VISUAL PRESENTATION AND RL.4.3 CHARACTER ANALYSIS)

Choose a presentation source such as a PowerPoint or video production to present Bella's character traits.

Be sure to provide an example of Bella's behavior as evidence for each character trait.

Use the following rubric to guide yourself through this activity.

1 POINT	2 POINTS	3 POINTS	4 POINTS	5 POINTS
Little preparation is obvious and no originality.	Some preparation is evident, but lacks originality.	Preparation is obvious and shows some originality.	Preparation is obvious with 1 original idea in presentation.	Preparation is obvious with 2 original ideas in presentation.
1 character trait presented	2 character traits presented	3 character traits presented	4 character traits presented	5 character traits presented
1 text example as evidence for character traits	2 text examples; 1 for each character trait.	3 text examples; 1 for each character trait.	4 text examples; 1 for each character trait.	5 text examples; 1 for each character trait.
No visuals used.	One visual used to catch attention of audience.	Two visuals used to catch attention of audience.	Three visuals used to catch attention of the audience.	Many visuals used to catch the attention of the audience.
Difficult to follow and hard to make sense due to lack of organization.	Presentation has a few events in order with a small sense of time order.	Presentation has three events in time order.	Presentation has four events in time order.	All events are in time order and presentation is very easy to understand.

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS ____/25 PTS.

