

How To Steal a Dog

By Barbara O'Connor

Contributed by: Joni Miller

Library of Congress Summary:

Georgina Hayes is desperate. Ever since her father left and they were evicted from their apartment, her family has been living in their car. With her mama juggling two jobs and trying to make enough money to find a place to live, Georgina is stuck looking after her younger brother, Toby. And she has her heart set on improving their situation. When Georgina spots a missing-dog poster with a reward of five hundred dollars, the solution to all her problems suddenly seems within reach. All she has to do is “borrow” the right dog and its owners are sure to offer a reward. What happens next is the last thing she expected.

Book Information:

Time Period: Contemporary

Setting Location: Darby, North Carolina

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

Curriculum Ties: homelessness

Booktalk:

<http://www.mackinbooktalk.com/viewbook.aspx?BookId=916>

Author Information

<http://www.barboconnor.com/>

This website includes a biography of the author, bibliography, contact information, and discussion guides for her books.

Questions:

Scholastic Literature Circle Guide

http://teacher.scholastic.com/clubs/lit_circle_pdfs/howtostealadog_t.pdf

Farrar Straus Giroux Discussion Guide

<http://media.us.macmillan.com/discussionguides/9780312561123DG.pdf>

Journal Topics:

1. Write your own How To guide.
2. Tell how you think Luanne felt when she found out Georgiana was homeless.
3. Do desperate measures make people do bad things? Why?
4. Rewrite a chapter of the story with Georgiana's dad in the picture. Pretend that he had never left but that they are still homeless.
5. Write about Georgiana's life a year down the road. What does it look like?
6. Toby never gets to share his feelings. Write about what you think is going through Toby's mind throughout this book.
7. Georgiana's father comes back to Darby. What would you say or do to him if you were Georgiana?
8. What can we do to help the homeless in our city or state?
9. Rewrite the end of the story. This time Carmella is not so nice and forgiving of Georgiana. What happens?
10. If you were Georgiana, how would you have done things differently? Would you have even stolen the dog? Would you come up with another way to get money?

Vocabulary

irritate
unkempt
temporary
misery
propped
pluck
swarming

mentally
convince
nosy
hedge
miserable
asphalt
clutched

cockeyed
deposit
fable
artificial
jealousy
miracle
conscience

invisible
strolled
chandeliers
sardines
prying

collapsed
footstool
ottoman
motto
fluttering

honeysuckle
radiator
gravel

Other Works by Barbara O'Connor:

Beethoven in Paradise

Fame and Glory in Freedom, Georgia

Greetings from Nowhere

Me and Rupert Goody

Moonpie and Ivy

Taking Care of Moses

Activities

Word scramble with all the vocabulary words.

<http://edubakery.com/Word-Scrambles/How-to-Steal-a-Dog-v3-Word-Scramble>

Multiple Intelligences Activities for *How to Steal a Dog*

<http://www.gips.org/district-services/technology/student-projects/gsower0910/4077/student-resources-for-4-6-titles/StealDog>

You Tube Video Trailer by Barbara O'Connor, Author

<http://bookwizard.scholastic.com/tbw/viewWorkDetail.do?workId=1157691>

Additional Websites:

<http://www.ilfonline.org/clientuploads/YHBA/10-11%20YHBA%20Resources/HowtoStealADog.pdf>

Discussion guide

http://www.asPCA.org/site/PageServer?pagename=kids_home

A kids site all about animals.

<http://www.missingpet.net/advice/index.html>

What to do when you have a missing pet.

<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/facts/Whois.pdf>

Information about the homeless.

<http://www.hud.gov/homeless/index.cfm>

More information about the homeless.