

Fancy Nancy and the Posh Puppy

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Summary

Nancy LOVES everything “fancy” and French! When Fancy Nancy and her family puppy sit the neighbor’s dog, a fancy Papillion, she learns that being fancy isn’t the most important thing in choosing the best dog for a family.

Ideas for Classroom use

Discussion questions - encourage children to find examples from the story to document their answers.

What makes Papillion’s so posh (according to Fancy Nancy)?

What are some of the concerns Fancy Nancy’s parents have about getting a Papillion?

When the family puppy sits Jewel, what are some of the issues that arise?

What happens when Fancy Nancy’s family visit the LaSalle Street Animal Shelter?

What are some important lessons Fancy Nancy learns in this story?

Responding to the Story

Research and Language Arts

Choosing the right pet for you and your family

You and your family (or class) can learn about the responsibilities of pets and choosing the right pet for your particular family with some of the information shared at this website:

<http://www.bestfriends.org/theanimals/pdfs/allpets/choosingapet.pdf>

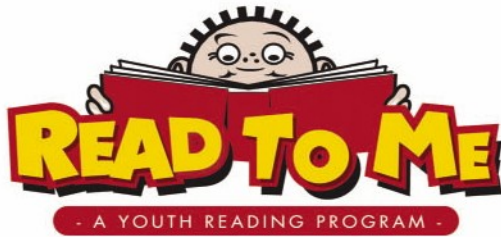
Researching Dogs

Bring in several picture books from the library about the many breeds of dogs like Fancy Nancy’s parents did in the book. After all children have had time to peruse the books, elicit the names of some of their favorites. Next, narrow their favorites down to four or five breeds.

Divide your children into four or five small groups and invite each group to research and create a poster advertising one of the dogs selected as a classroom favorite. Each poster should include:

- a drawing of the dog and/or a photo downloaded from the internet
- what kind of households are best for the breed
- how much and what kind of exercise the dog needs
- how much and what kind of food the dog eats
- other special or “fancy” characteristics of the breed

Have each group present their posters to the class and then post them for everyone to delight in.



Our own fancy pets

Do you already have a pet or pets of your own? If you have more than one, choose one as inspiration for the following activities. If you do not have a pet, choose a pet that you'd like to have.

Describe the day in the life of that pet from the pet's point of view. Be sure the pet introduces itself to us and tells us its name. Then begin from the time the pet wakes up in the morning to when it goes to bed at night sharing its daily routine. For ideas on how to get started, encourage children to look at the blog entries from "The Day in the life of a pet Squirrel":

<http://adayinthelifeofapetsquirrel.blogspot.com/>

Again, using the blog site above for inspiration, draw a picture capturing a moment in the day you shared in your story. It can become the cover for your "Day in the Life" story.

Fancy dog names

Some dogs have really fancy names like Papillion. Invite children to create an ABC book of fancy dog names. It could be a long accordion book, created in small groups or by children on their own. For each page children can list the dog name and either draw or cut out pictures to go with each letter. For instance, A might be for Airedale, B is for Bulldog, C is for Cairn terrier, etc. An online list of dog breeds in alphabetical listing can be found at:

<http://www.dogbreedinfo.com/xoloitzcuintle.htm>

Cooking

Fancy healthy pet treats

Kids love to cook in the kitchen. Invite them to create healthy pet treats using some of the recipes for pet snacks shared at the following website:

<http://www.easy-kids-recipes.com/pet-treat-recipes.html>

Healthy bone-shaped treats

This recipe for healthy dog treats calls for you to roll out and use a cookie cutter to make the cookies. You might have fun finding a bone-shaped cookie cutter to use although your dog really won't care – any cookie cutter will do:

<http://hubpages.com/hub/My-Best-Dog-Treat-Recipe>

Field Trip

Take a field trip to a local animal shelter. Take a tour; learn how the animals are cared for and how the shelter helps place the animals in homes.

♥*Lesson created by Val Hornburg, Portland, OR*