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## Hey Jack! The New Friend

By Sally Rippin, illustrated by Stephanie Spartels

### Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Research the topic of responsible pet ownership.
- Write an advertisement or create a poster for a missing animal.

### About the Story:

On their way home from the park, Jack and his dad discover they have company ... the four-legged furry kind! With no address and nighttime fast approaching, Jack's dad agrees to take the puppy home for the night with plans to resume the search for its owners tomorrow. But the longer Jack spends with the puppy, the more he wants to keep it, and he hopes that tomorrow morning's search fails to find Scraps' owner. But Jack's hopes are dashed when he discovers that this adorable, wriggly, yappy puppy belongs to Alf from the corner store. With one final puppy lick, Jack reluctantly hands over the puppy and looks around to quickly leave the shop before he starts to cry. But before Jack can leave, Alf has a surprise that leaves Jack feeling like the luckiest boy alive.

### Before You Read the Story:

Read the title of the book aloud. Ask students to speculate on who or what the title refers to. Survey the students about the animal friends they have at home and have students identify why pets make great friends. Now turn to the back cover and read the blurb aloud. Ask students to offer ideas that Jack could use to convince his mom and dad to keep the lost puppy.

### Questions and Activities:

#### Chapter One

- Who follows Jack and his dad home from the park?
- Why can't Jack's dad tell who the puppy belongs to?
- Why does Jack's dad agree to take the puppy home?

Activity: Discuss how Jack and his dad dealt with finding the lost puppy. Ask students if they have had experience with losing a pet or finding a lost animal. Invite a member of an organization such as the ASPCA to speak about their work with lost animals, what students should do if they find a lost animal and how to ensure a pet doesn't become lost. Consider conducting a food and blanket drive to aid the work of this organization.

#### Chapter Two

- Is Jack allowed to keep the puppy? Why or why not?
- Who is Jack going to visit tomorrow morning and why?
- "Jack! What are you doing here?" Pretend you are Jack and answer Dad's question.



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Activity: Show students a “found” poster and a “found” advertisement from the newspaper and help students identify the important elements of each. Students choose and make one of these for Scraps. Instruct students to use as much detail (as revealed in the story) as possible. Student’s work should be published and displayed.

*Chapter Three*

- Who does the puppy belong to? How does Jack feel about finding Scraps' owner? How do you know this?
- “Come look at this!” What does Alf have in the back room of his shop?
- What happens next that makes Jack feel like the luckiest boy alive?

Activity: Survey the class to find out who owns a dog. Ask these students to detail how they look after their dogs. Use this information to create a simple class book titled, “How To Take Care of Your Dog.” Have students illustrate the pages before binding the book and adding it to class library.

*Teacher Tips adapted from Hardie Grant Egmont.*