



RESCUE DOGS



Talk About It

In what situations do you hear about dogs coming to the rescue? What abilities do dogs have that make them useful for rescue work?



Find out more about dogs at
www.macmillanmh.com

Vocabulary

variety fragrance
transformed cooperation
celebration canceled
moistened theory



Thesaurus

A **Thesaurus** is a tool that can help you find synonyms for a particular word. For example, the word *fragrance* may have the following synonyms listed: *aroma*, *perfume*, or *scent*.

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

by Shawna Telman

My name is Sparky and I work for Ms. Toni Graham. I am her in-home companion. My trainer calls what I do “work” but I think my job is fun! I especially enjoy the **variety** in my job: I do many different things for Ms. Toni every day. She says I have **transformed** her life. I have changed things so her daily routine is easier.

Ms. Toni suffers from an illness that makes her hands shake and causes her muscles to stiffen up. She has a hard time bending over. On a bad day, Ms. Toni can lose her balance and fall. Whenever she drops something, I pick it up for her. It’s part of my job.

Another part of my job is to help Ms. Toni with her work. She has an office in her home. Last week she was preparing to mail invitations for some major **celebration** that will raise money for a charity. How did I help? I learned how to lick the flaps of envelopes. They needed to be **moistened**, so that they could seal shut. For once my slimy doggy tongue came in handy!



Every afternoon I accompany Ms. Toni on a walk around town. Exercise is important for her health so we never miss a day. We often see a new sight or smell a new **fragrance** along our route. Ms. Toni rests when we get back. She needs my **cooperation** during this time. I help her by being very quiet. I stay by the front door and keep my eye on things. If Ms. Toni needs me, she rings a bell.

Every so often Ms. Toni can't sleep, so naptime is **canceled**. At these times she likes me to hang out and relax with her. The **theory** behind this is that petting me makes her feel calm. The idea makes sense. She talks to me and brushes me. This is one of the best parts of my job.

I am very lucky to be a part of Ms. Toni's life. People who have a hard time with day-to-day chores can become sad and lonely. Dogs like me help them feel happy.



Reread for Comprehension



Generate Questions Cause and Effect

A Cause and Effect Chart helps you ask questions to figure out what happens in a story (an effect) and why it happens (a cause). Use your Cause and Effect Chart as you reread "It's a Dog's Life" to find several effects and their causes.

Cause → Effect
→
→
→
→