

Educator's Guide for *Snow Dog, Sand Dog*

Written by Linda Joy Singleton; Illustrated by Jess Golden
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Ages 4-7 / Grades PreK-2

This guide is aligned with the Common Core Curriculum with the following standards for the 1st grade. If you teach another grade, you can easily find the coordinating standard at this website for your grade level: www.corestandards.org

Reading Literature

Key Ideas and Details

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.1** Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.2** Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.3** Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.

Craft and Structure

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.4** Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.5** Explain major differences between books that tell stories and books that give information, drawing on a wide reading of a range of text types.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.1.7** Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events.

Foundational Skills

Phonological Awareness

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.1.2c** Isolate and pronounce initial, medial vowel, and final sounds (phonemes) in spoken single-syllable words.

Phonics and Word Recognition

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.1.3e** Decode two-syllable words following basic patterns by breaking the words into syllables.

Pre-reading:

Have students mark their opinion of the following statements below. Then, post the four answers in each corner of the room and have students move to that area and discuss in the small groups the people that agree with them or as a whole class. For a math connection, have them graph the answers of the class.

Statement:	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Why I think so
Everyone should get a dog.					
Kids sometimes say mean things.					
Having an active imagination is really important.					
You can always make your own fun.					

Discussion guide:

1. What did Ally really want? What can you infer (or figure out) about why she couldn't get one?
2. Why do you think Ally draws so many pictures of dogs? Do you think she probably asked her parents for a dog? Why or why not?
3. Describe how Ally constructs or makes her snow dog. How do the other kids react to it? Does that upset her or not? How do you know?
4. List the things that Ally does with her snow dog. What do you think would be the most fun?
5. Summarize how Ally made her spring dog. What materials did she use? How do the kids react this time?
6. What types of things do Ally and Flower Dog do together? Which one sounds like the most fun? Why?
7. Describe what Ally does at the beach. What fun does she have with her sand dog?
8. In the fall, what does Ally use to create another dog for herself? What do they do together?
9. What happened to leaf dog? What does Ally do?
10. Which of the four dogs would be your favorite? Why? What could you make a dog out of just outside the closest window?

Reading:

All stories are made up of certain elements or parts. In reading partners, fill out the following graphic organizer using key details from Ally's story. Then, compare your chart with another pair and fill in any missing details.

Key CHARACTERS: (People or animals in a story)	SETTING: (Time and place)	Key EVENTS: (Things that happen)

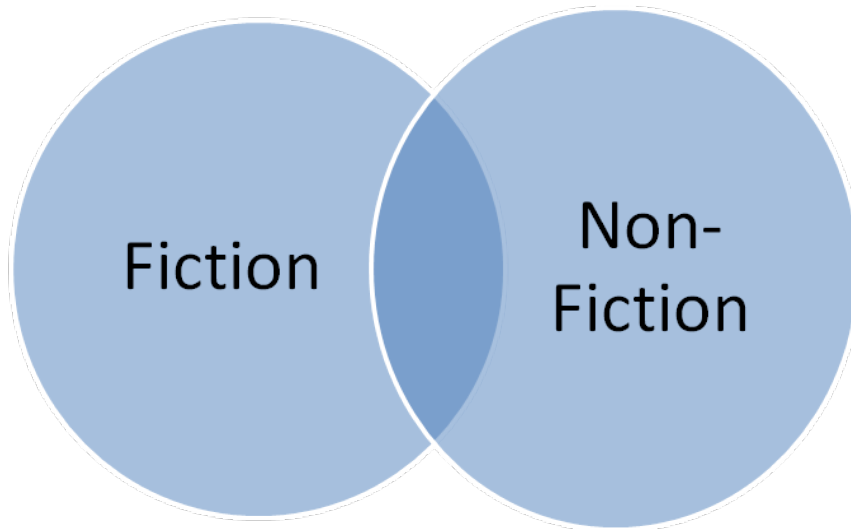
Fill out the following chart after reading SNOW DOG, SAND DOG:

WHO is this story about?	
WHAT is the problem in the story?	
WHEN does the story take place? (present/past, season, weather)	
WHERE does the story take place?	
WHY does she create different kinds of dogs?	
HOW does she get what she wants?	

Fiction vs. Non-Fiction

Put two intersecting circles on the board (a Venn diagram) and have children compare and contrast the differences between fiction and non-fiction books. You may want to provide them with several samples of each and let them study them in pairs or small groups.

Provide them with the following list of words to sort: facts, characters, definitions, glossary, index, settings, magic, conflict or problem, charts, graphs, maps, timelines.



Writing:

Good writers use specific details that make their story seem real and true. Lots of times these details come from one of the five senses. Look back in Ally's story and try to find an example of a detail for each one of the senses. Then, get ready to write a story about your own pet (or imaginary one that you want) that uses at least three of the five senses by filling out the chart the rest of the way.

Senses:	Example from Ally's story:	Ideas for my own pet story:
SEE:	"pebble eyes, a pinecone collar, and a crooked icicle tail."	
HEAR:		
SMELL:		
TASTE:		
TOUCH:		



Phonemic Awareness:

Using the chart below have students sort tokens (pennies, game pieces, or even small candies) into the column where they hear the initial sound of the words read aloud. Stop and check your work along the way.

Read from the following two lists in random order:

/D/ Words: dog, dig, door, dad, dust, dab, dill, dump, dash, duck, doll, dip, do, dance, drew.

/B/ Words: butterfly, button, but, bouquet, blossom, bed, boy, bird, bat, bell, bet, brown, bird.

 <p>Words that begin with the /D/ sound like DOG</p>	 <p>Words that begin with the /B/ sound like Butterfly</p>

Divide the following words from the story into two syllables. You may want to clap each syllable to check to make sure it's correct.

New word:	First syllable:	Second syllable:
Pinecone		
Crooked		
Snowballs		
Window		
Seedpod		
Planter		
seaweed		
Driftwood		
sandbox		
acorn		
popcorn		

[Tracie Vaughn Zimmer](#), author and reading specialist, created this guide.

STEP 1: CUT OUT FLOWER DOG.

STEP 2: GLUE FLOWER PIECES TO CREATE FLOWER DOG.

OPTIONAL IDEA: Glue popsicle stick to cut-out for paper-puppet.



STEP 1: CUT OUT SAND DOG.

STEP 2: GLUE SAND (or cinnamon) to create a sand dog.



STEP 1: CUT OUT LEAF DOG.

STEP 2: GLUE LEAF PIECES TO MAKE LEAF DOG.



STEP 1: CUT OUT SNOW DOG.

STEP 2: GLUE COTTON PIECES (or coconut) to make SNOW DOG.

