



The Empathy Pawject

Lesson # 9: Dear Dog

Lesson Overview

This is the final Empathy Pawject Lesson, intended to celebrate student learning. I discuss with my students that this special project is ever evolving as it involves real dogs that they have helped raise awareness for. Each year I book a public space to display my student's portraits. A public venue allows student's families and friends to come and cheer on the work these artists have created. It widens their community and continues to raise awareness for animals in need.

In this lesson students will apply the information and skills they have learned about adoptable dogs, empathy and compassion to help them craft a letter to their adoptable dog. The idea here is to do something nice even though they know they cannot receive anything in return. They will also get a chance to ask their dog some questions and put into words how they have felt learning about them and painting their portraits.

Lesson Materials

- 1) dog's profile
- 2) portraits
- 3) sketchbooks
- 4) a sheet of writing paper, a pencil and an eraser
- 5) a large piece of chart paper, smart board or white board to record brainstorming ideas on

Curriculum Outcomes: From the Grade 4 Alberta Program of Studies

Curriculum outcomes:

(from the Alberta Education Program of Studies for Grade 4 Art)

- Explore drawing media (AC: 10iii a) (CHC 10h)
- Understand that operating from a position of trust sets the stage for building relationships (CHC 9e)

Curriculum outcomes:

(from the Alberta Education Program of Studies for Grade 4 Health and Wellness)

- recognize that individuals can have a positive and negative influence on the feelings of others (R R-4.1)
- identify and describe ways to provide support to others (R-4.6)



Learning Activity

Brainstorming Session:

Ask the students to think about all of the things they have learned about empathy, adoptable dogs in shelters both local and around the world, and about their dog specifically. Before writing, have them think about what they want to share with their dog.

Brainstorm with the students to come up with some questions they could ask their adoptable dog. Also, list some things they would like their dog to know about them:

- Are they curious if their dog has any siblings?
- Do they want to tell the dog about their own siblings?
- What are their dogs favourite foods, games and activities?

Writing:


Have the students spend the rest of the class writing a letter to their dog. They can also draw a picture for their dog.

End of Class Activity

At the end of this class ask your students for feedback on the project: what they liked, what they found challenging and what they think they would add to it. This feedback will be very valuable but it will also give you some insight into your students learning and developing empathy.




Student examples:



Jackson puts the "I" into joyful. Percolating with typical puppy playfulness, his unusual color turns heads wherever he puts his paws, and while initially shy, he quickly warms up and greets everyone he meets with a full body wiggle of delight. Bright as the proverbial button, he's crate and housetrained, knows some basic commands and manners and is eager to learn more. Now this happy honey hopes to turn the heads of an equally happy home, preferably with a backyard, children or another playful pup, that will complete his training while keeping him mentally stimulated and physically satisfied fur-ever.

Jackson was born approximately October 2019, weighs about 20 pounds and will be a medium to large dog.

Jackson is available for adoption through Pawsitive Match Rescue!

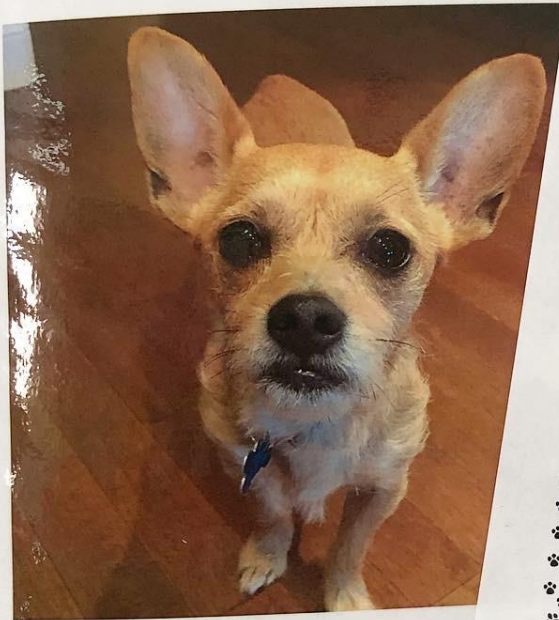


Dear Jackson,

I am drawing and painting you in art class. I have some questions. What is your favorite game to play and what is your favorite toy? Do you have a sibling to do? He is in grade 6. Do hope you get adopted soon.

😊

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Suiting his name to a "r" is Sunny Boy, a recent arrival from California who / sun on the deck or near the patio window of his foster home. With a persona face, he's calm and affectionate, loves cuddling with his foster mom, sleepir walks, walking very well on a leash. Sweaters are a must for this little one, and on the hunt for a quieter home without other pets where he will be the most loving of fur-ever companions.

Sunny boy is approximately 5 years old and weighs 10 lbs.

Sunny Boy can be adopted through Pawsitive Match Rescue!



Dear Sunny Boy,

I have a couple questions for you. Do you have any best friends? What is your favorite game to play? Do you have a favorite toy? Did you have a previous owner? I already have 2 pets, 2 cats named Oliver and Nigle. On your profile picture, you look so cute!! Finally, I'm drawing and painting you so you can get adopted by a family.

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two years old. I met him yesterday. He took his duties lightly, napping immediately in the (alone directing) our route. I read that Mumford has a lot of experience outside in winters (er than balmy southern Alberta. We parked a ways away from where I was hoping to park (wed) and started walking towards the trail. I kept a close eye on Mumford for signs that (r showed signs of being chilly, but just as we arrived at our trail, he had accumulated fair (een his toes. As you can imagine, it's uncomfortable to hike with ice balls pushing your (rtable with a person, he will let her pluck the packed snow from his inter-toe fur. (guy. He let me try, but it was too packed, so we cut the hike short. There are a lot of (ort on a day like today and they mostly involve not freezing anyone and not having (rt to freeze soon. (d the way to the car where he could lie in peace and chew his toe ice. We made short (t different mountains. Mumford seemed to like the snack schedule attached to each (of the car, snacks for running and jumping, and more snacks for letting me pick him (nto the car). Do you know someone who would love a sweet, mostly calm, super (ad over to **AARCS** to get more information or apply to adopt. Photo & Story by



Dear Doggy friends,

Do you like to eat chicken or any type of meat? Do you also like your Dog food? If I was a dog I would steal all of the food off the table. Do you like a serene toy or pillow? Because I like a serene toy. Mumford do you like to go on walks and also do you like to play with people. Mumford do you like to play hide and seek or play with your toys.

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This is Vic. He's a young fella (almost two) and he's got the energy to prove it. I met him when he was about 10 weeks old. He guided me around his field outside the shelter. It's fenced in, but we walked on the word which here means "insistent" that we spent this time together. Vic wasn't worried. When he made that discovery he became super-duper excited. Our walk started with Vic in an uncontrolled manner. Vic was eager to sit and stay in exchange for a morsel of food. He's into intrinsically. We walked in the sun under a wide open sky testing each other's limits. Vic did pretty well, pretty quickly. If you know someone who would love a dog, let them know where to find him. He is currently hanging out at the Creston Pet Adoption Society in BC. #adoptable Photo & Story by @trailsandbears



Dear Vic,

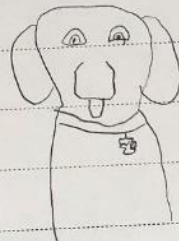
My name is _____ and _____

I am doing everything I can to help you. It would help me to know a little bit more about you. What's your favourite food?

Do you have a best friend?

Are you excited to be adopted?

From _____



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Doyle. He's a two year old friendly fellow who is ready to find his forever family! I picked Doyle up from his Calgary shelter and brought him to Canmore. We drove up to the pass through the mountains into the next valley. It was a bit chilly for Doyle, but still wanted to go out at 20°C (-4°F) which I discovered was a bit chilly for Doyle. I see what was there. I gave Doyle the cold-weather tour which consists of a 185km drive on a snow-packed road passing many of my favourite hikes. We stopped at each trail. He's a very sweet boy, but since his time outside was limited, he wasted no time. Doyle kept very busy smelling the scents. After each hike, Doyle sometimes got into self and other times waited for me to lift him (when he gets his own car and human, I be fully self-loading). Doyle is on a strict hypoallergenic kibble diet right now (to clear up his skin). Do you know someone who would love a big, clever pup like Doyle and promises to care for him more than I did? Photo & Story from @trailsandbears. He's available for adoption at AARCS in Calgary.



Dear Doyle,
How have you been? I've heard
you've been to Canmore and I have
also heard you enjoyed it very much!
Do you have a best friend? I
do! I have a few! I also hope
that your irritated skin heals and
goes away soon.

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