

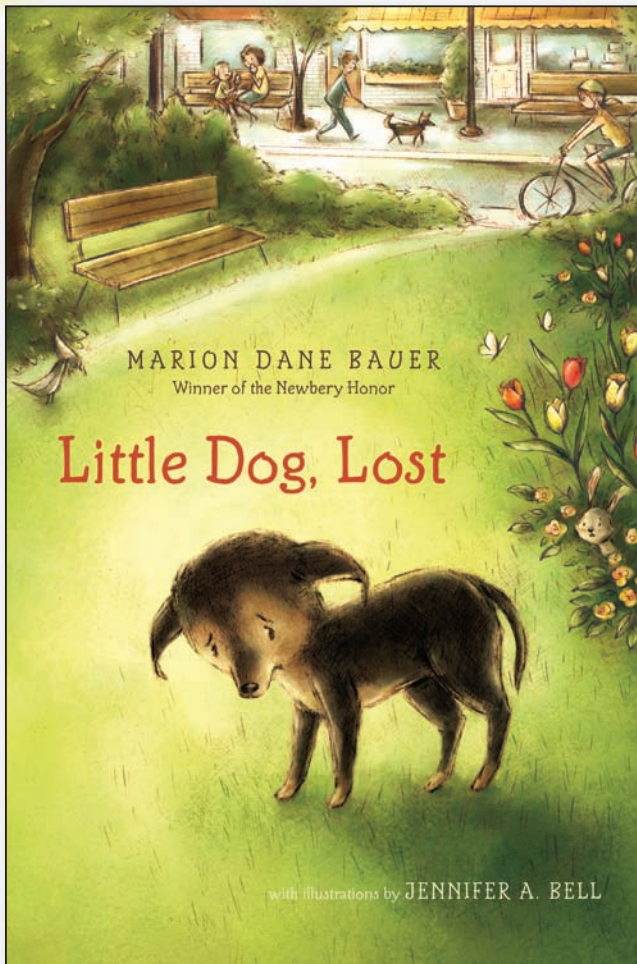
Discussion Guide

Little Dog, Lost

By Newbery Honor winner
MARION DANE BAUER

Illustrated by
JENNIFER A. BELL

*“Bark! Bark! Bark!
A-WOOOOOOOO!”*



ISBN 9781442434233 • \$14.99 • Atheneum Books for Young Readers

To Mark, it sounded exactly like “Mark! Mark! Mark! I need yooooooooou!” And since Mark doesn’t have a dad or a brother or a sister or even a cousin living close enough to count, he *needs* a dog—and maybe this dog needs him, too. But persuading his mom is another story. Fortunately, Mark has good friends to help him, and he discovers a new one along the way.

Marion Dane Bauer’s touching novel in verse is a charming portrait of a small town and the small acts of bravery that can bring a lost dog and some lonely neighbors together.

★ *“A perfect selection for pet lovers new to chapter books and anyone who just enjoys a cheerful dog story.”*

—KIRKUS REVIEWS, starred review










“Told in free verse, this charming novel examines themes of longing and loneliness through three memorable characters.”

—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

Marion Dane Bauer is the bestselling author of more than eighty books. Her novel *On My Honor* won a Newbery Honor. Born in Illinois, she currently makes her home in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The activities in this guide were created by Leigh Courtney, PhD. She teaches in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both master’s and doctoral degrees in education, with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.

Discussion Questions

-  In *Little Dog, Lost*, Mark desperately wants a dog. He thinks about dogs all day and dreams of dogs all night. Have you ever wanted something so much that it was hard to think of anything else? What was it that you desired? Why was it so important to you?
-  The story begins with a boy who owns a dog that he must give away because he is moving to the city with his family. How does the author assure the reader that the boy will overcome his heartache about losing his beloved dog, Buddy?
-  Marion Dane Bauer has adopted a unique storytelling style in *Little Dog, Lost*. She tells the tale of two boys and one dog in verse. How does the author's style affect the reader's understanding of the story? Does the use of verse allow the reader to imagine more? Does the reader have to work harder to comprehend story events? How does the use of verse affect the reader's emotional response to the story?
-  How is Buddy made real to the reader? The dog seems to have a distinct personality. What details does the author include to describe the little dog's personality?
-  Charles Larue, the caretaker of the mansion, is a man shrouded in mystery. The townspeople of Erthly know little about him and assume details about his "hidden story." How does the mansion that Charles Larue cares for reflect what the townspeople believe to be true about him?
-  Do you find the characters in *Little Dog, Lost* likable? Some characters, such as Charles Larue and the lady with salt-and-pepper hair, change over the course of the story. Did your opinion of these characters change from the beginning to the end of the story? Give examples of your thoughts about Mark's mom, Charles Larue, and the lady with the salt-and-pepper hair.
-  Why do you think that Mark's mother did not share her real reason for not allowing Mark to have a dog?
-  Mark's singular focus on acquiring a dog sparks an idea that he wants to present to the town council in Erthly. Describe the formation of the Dog Park Pack and Mark's role as leader of the group.
-  There is a strong theme of longing woven throughout the story. Buddy "feels so alone in the world." Charles Larue "always wished he'd had a child." Mark wished for a dog because it "was exactly what he begged for, what he'd longed for, what he needed his entire life!" Longing can evoke feelings of sadness, but the author states, "And what is longing made of except hope?" Discuss the role of longing and hope in *Little Dog, Lost*. What role does hope play in each character who longs for something?



Name: _____

Saying It with Similes

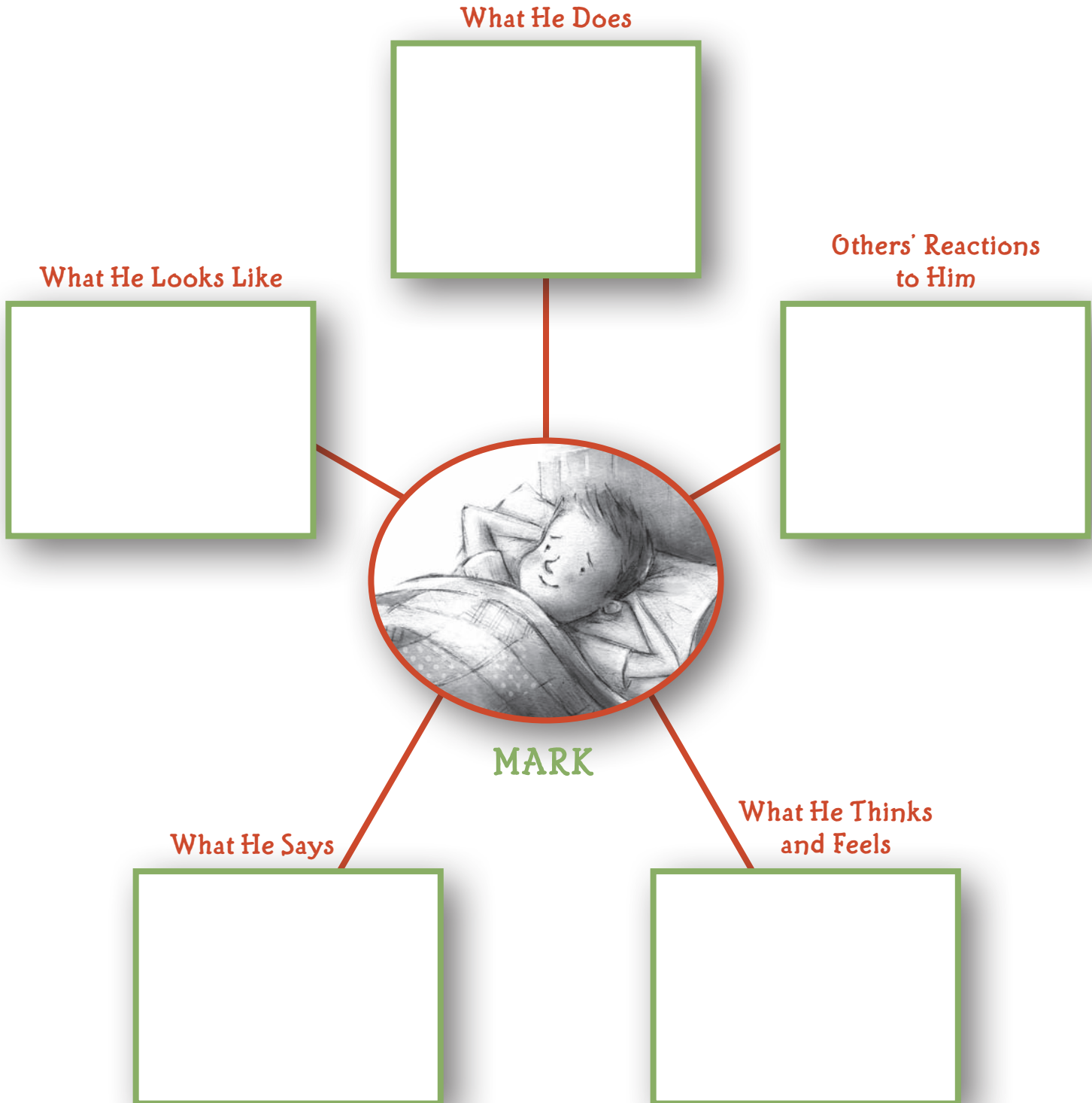
Marion Dane Bauer uses similes to describe Buddy in *Little Dog, Lost*: “Ears like airplane wings” and “her tongue as limp as a dishrag.” Think of adjectives to describe each character listed in the chart. Next, create similes based on these adjectives to describe each character.



CHARACTER	ADJECTIVE	SIMILE
The boy (Buddy's first owner)		
Mark		
Mark's mom		
Buddy		
Charles Larue		

Creating a Character Web

In *Little Dog, Lost*, author Marion Dane Bauer reveals the main character, Mark, to the reader in many ways. Look back through the story to find examples of this. Use the information to complete the character web.



Name: _____

Setting the Scene

Reread the description of the town of Erthly at the beginning of chapter 7. Using the information given about the businesses, homes, streets, and parks in Erthly, create a map or illustration of how you think the town might look.

