

SPIKE SURFS

FROM LOST DOGS' HOME
TO SURFING CHAMP

Robert Lorenzon

TEACHER NOTES

 wild dog

Blurb

[Latest blurb to go here](#)

Synopsis

Spike Surfs – From Lost Dog’s Home to Surfing Champ is about a dog called Spike and the man who adopts him. Spike loves Rob and the sights and smells of his new home. However, he isn’t as excited about the ocean. With love and support, Spike learns to love the water. He goes from abandoned dog to dog surfing champion. *Spike Surfs* is a story of devotion and friendship.

Writing style

Spike Surfs – From Lost Dog’s Home to Surfing Champ uses language suitable for early and reluctant readers. The large font, speech bubbles, and inclusion of reports add to the reader’s understanding and reading experience.

Photographic style

Spike Surfs – From Lost Dog’s Home to Surfing Champ uses photos of Spike, many taken by author, Rob Lorenzon. These photographs document Spike’s arrival as an unsure rescue dog to that of a confident, loved surfing champion.

Specifications

Author: Rob Lorenzon
ISBN: 9781742036229
Format:
Extent:
Binding: Hardback
Reading Level: 5+
Interest Level: 5+
Category: Non-fiction

Australian Curriculum Outcomes

ENGLISH

- ACELA1430 • ACELA1433
- ACELT1575 • ACELT1580 • ACELY1646 • ACELY1784
- ACELY1648 • ACELA1447 • ACELA1454
- ACELY1788 • ACELA1470 • ACELY1666

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- ACPPS005

SCIENCE

- ACSSU002

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

- ACHASSI022 • ACHASSI005
- ACHASSI008 • ACHASSI025
- ACHASSI038 • ACHASSI040

Themes

- PETS • DOGS
- PET OWNERSHIP
- RESCUE ANIMALS
- COURAGE • LOVE
- COMPANION ANIMALS

Before Reading

- Explore the students' own experiences with dogs. Extend the discussion to Include other pets.
 - Do you own a dog?
 - Where did it come from?
 - Was it from a breeder or a rescue centre?
 - How did you choose the dog?
 - Ask students if their dogs have special talents or tricks.

Examine the cover

- Discuss the students' response to the cover, focussing on the book's likely genre and content.
- Discuss the photo of Spike on the cover. Ask the children how he might feel and what he might be doing?
- Introduce narrative nonfiction as a genre. Discuss how it might be similar to, and different from, picture books and non-fiction.

Discuss the book's title *Spike Surfs – From Lost Dog's Home to Surfing Champ*

- What clues does this give about the book?
- Ask the class if they have heard of the Lost Dog's Home. Discuss their understanding and experiences with the Lost Dog's Home and similar welfare agencies.

Read the blurb

- After examining the cover and reading the blurb, ask students to share their questions.
- List questions so students can return to them after reading.
- Discuss what the sentence 'A true story of devotion and friendship' might mean.

While Reading

Ask students what they have discovered from reading this book.

- Help students recognise how Spike changes as his confidence grows.
 - Compare pages 1, 7, 10 and 14

After Reading

Discussion points:

- Reread the comments on Spike's Lost Dogs' Home report.
 - 'At 12 months old, handsome Spike still thinks he is a young pup.*
 - He loves to play games and bounce around the place. He has received some very basic training, however needs plenty more.*
 - Due to his size and strength Spike needs a very experienced owner who can provide him with a safe, loving home.*
 - Spike's previous owner moved to a place with very limited space and they did not have time to give him the daily walks and training he needed.*
 - Ask children to infer why Spike was at the Lost Dogs' Home.
 - Ask if there are other clues to Spike's personality (page 3)
 - Ask if they would have chosen Spike and why/why not
 - Ask students why Rob might have chosen Spike.
 - Do students think Rob made the right choice in picking Spike?

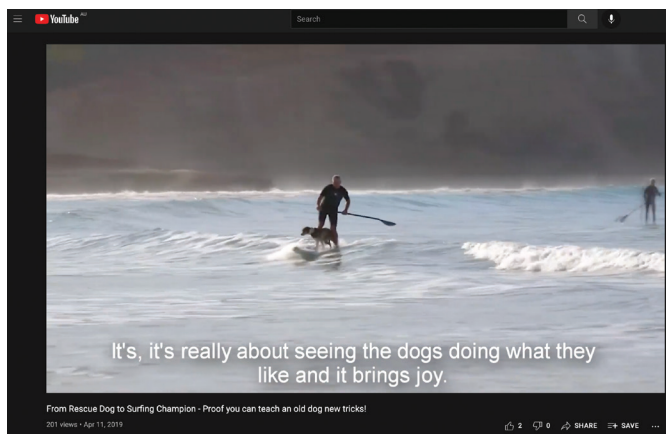


Visit Spike's Instagram page and explore the photos of Spike

(<https://www.instagram.com/spikesurfs/?hl=en>)

- Ask the class to provide words that describe Spike's new life.
- Create a Spike Surfs Word Wall. Add words from the text and words students have contributed to describe Spike's life.
- If age appropriate, the wall could be divided in two, headed Before and After. Have students list words to describe Spike before he met Rob and after.
- Have children draw Spike on A5 paper. Display these as a boarder for Spike Surfs Word Wall.

Watch this video about Spike



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fn_FLjq_wuU

- What does the video add to the student's understanding of Spike and Rob's relationship and of Spike's personality?
- Ask children for questions they might like to ask Rob. Encourage them to ask questions that gather longer responses rather than yes/no answers. Consider approaching the author through Wild Dog Books to share the questions with him.

Writing

- Spike is the ideal dog for Rob. Discuss with students the features their ideal dog would have. Consider personality, size, temperament.
- Ask students to write a piece about their ideal dog and illustrate their work.

Narrative

- Imagine you are a dog with a special talent. Write about a day in your life.
- Imagine you are visiting the Lost Dogs' Home looking for a dog to take home. Describe your feelings and the dogs.

Report

- Imagine you are a reporter sent to write a piece about the Dog Surfing Championships. Write a newspaper article about the final.

Poster

- Have students create a poster – and if appropriate for the age, a report like Spike's – for a dog at an animal shelter. Collect images of different dogs to help prompt ideas.

Art/Science

- Show students a simple Dog Body Parts poster (examples area available on Google).
- Ask them to either draw their own dog – including its colouring and features – or label a photo. Keep the activity simple for younger children.