

Grade 4 Informational

Puppy Pals

If you have some free time, you might think about starting a business. Dog walking is a service that working people need. Pet owners feel good having someone check on and exercise their pet. Dogs left alone get bored and may destroy things. If you love animals and know how to care for dogs, you and a friend could start a dog walking service.

First, check with your parents to see if they approve of your plan. You will need comfortable shoes and clothing. Plastic bags for cleanup are important. You should start out on a small scale working with people that you know.

Then, decide how much you will charge and how often you will offer your services. Plan to allow a half hour for each dog that you walk. During your visit, you should play with your new pal.

Next, print flyers and post them where customers will see them. Supermarkets, restaurants, veterinarian offices, and pet supply stores are good places to hang your ad. You could also print some business cards.

Offer discounts for homes with more than one dog. Offer a discount for referrals. Draw up a contract that includes the pet(s) you will care for, days and times you will work, and the services you will provide. Both the pet owner and you should sign the contract and keep a copy of it.

Not only will you have fun with your new dog-walking business, but you will also provide a much-needed service. You will make some new friends and earn spending money.

Grade 4 Narrative

Art Class Snapshots

Only two weeks until summer vacation! Carl and Sam couldn't wait until they could spend their days riding bikes and skateboards, playing outside with their neighborhood friends, swimming at the lake, and sleeping late. It was going to be a great summer!

The last two weeks of school were usually a time of celebrating. Each year a talent show was held on the last day. Carl and Sam planned to do a comedy routine with jokes they had been practicing. After the talent show, everyone would eat lunch outside. Grilled burgers and hot dogs would be provided for students, teachers, and staff.

This year Carl and Sam's art teacher, Ms. Gibbons, assigned a unique final project to present on the last day of school.

"I would like all of you to think about the end of the school year in a new way. I will give each group of five students a camera to share for a week. During that time, I want each member of the group to photograph events that happen during the day. Photos can be taken at school, at home, or any other place that is part of your day. Each member of the group will use the photographs to make a collage that describes his or her day," explained Ms. Gibbons.

Carl looked around the room to see others' reactions to the project. He thought the art project sounded extremely fun. He was looking forward to walking through the day with a camera.

"When can we start?" Carl asked Ms. Gibbons.

"Right now!" replied Ms. Gibbons as she distributed the cameras.

On the walk home from school, Carl and Sam discussed the art project. The two boys lived next door to each other. They were in the same art group, and they were sharing the camera with three other students. They both agreed the project was awesome.

"I have several pictures from school today," said Sam.

"I am going to take some at home, but let's take some now!" exclaimed Carl.

Carl focused the camera and took a picture of some sidewalk ants. Sam used the camera to capture a picture of the mighty oak giving him shade.

Carl had never thought about all the little things he did each day. He had never noticed the details that surrounded him. In the morning just as he awoke, a ray of sunshine came through his curtain and shone on the floor. Birds were eating the red berries that grew in the hedge. Carl saw so many hiding places in his backyard, and when he sat quietly with his camera poised,

he could take a different picture from each place. Carl's turn ended, and he reluctantly gave the camera to another group member.

After one week, Ms. Gibbons taught the students how to review their photos, print them, cut them, and display them. The process took a few days to complete, but at last the projects were ready. Carl stood back to observe his collage, and then he circulated around the room to study his peers' completed projects.

No words were used in the collages, yet so much was being said. Carl was amazed at the differences among the pictures.

"We all go to the same school and live in the same town, but we have unique experiences every day," he said.

"That is a wonderful observation, Carl! That is exactly what I was hoping each of you would come to understand," said Ms. Gibbons.