



TEACHER'S GUIDE – ANSWER KEY



A children's novel for ages 8 and up. Available on Amazon.

A Message from the Author

This Answer Key is offered for the convenience of teachers and parents using the novel with children. Suggested answers are provided by the author in red for the “Questions to Consider” in all chapters as well as some of the worksheets included in the teacher’s guide.

The expected length, depth, and quality of the written responses will vary in accordance with the grades and skills of the students reading the book.

Thanks again for sharing my novel with the children in your lives. I greatly appreciate your support of my work.

Dr. Linda Costarella

Chapter 1 – I've Been Moved

Aim/Objectives:

1. How can we describe Jack's feelings at the beginning of the story? **Jack is sad and confused.**
2. Why does he feel this way? What happened to him? **He was moved to a new home, and he is frequently being sent outdoors.**

(Revised Bloom's Taxonomy – Understanding)

Questions to Consider:

1. What is Grandpa doing at the beginning of the story? Why is he doing this? **Grandpa is banging a pan with a spoon and chasing the two dogs out of the house because he believes dogs should stay outdoors.**
2. What is the slippery stuff that makes Jack's butt cold? **Jack refers to the snow as "slippery stuff". He's not familiar with snow because he lived in Florida before moving in with the Fernandez family.**
3. Who is New Master? Who are the other members of Jack's new family? **Jack refers to the father in his new family as New Master and to the mother as Nice Lady. They have three children, two girls and a little boy.**

4. Jack says that life on the farm is different from life in the city? How is it different? **Jack is living with more than one person now, sharing the yard with noisy animals, and playing on snow instead of grass.**
5. Who is Angelica? Compare and contrast Jack and Angelica. How are they the same? How are they different? **Jack and Angelica are both dogs, but Jack is much larger. He's a Labrador Retriever and she's a Chihuahua. Jack is younger and is very active, while Angelica is older and sleeps a lot.**
6. Why does Nice Lady let Jack out the back door every afternoon? **Nice Lady lets Jack out the back door in the afternoon so he can meet Melanie and Lily as they come home from school.**
7. When the kids enter the back door of the house, they're in the mud room. What do they do in that room? **They take off their coats and boots and put on clean shoes.**
8. What does Grandpa do as soon as the dogs come into the back door with the children? Why does he do this? **Grandpa shouts and tells the dogs to go outside because he thinks that's where they belong.**
9. Why do Melanie and Lily protest when Grandpa tries to send the dog outside again? What do they say is out there? **The**

girls protest because they want the dogs inside the house with them. They hear coyotes outside and are worried about the dogs' safety.

10. What does Grandpa say he will build for the dogs? Where does he think the dogs should stay until he builds it?

Grandpa says he will build a doghouse. Until then, he thinks the dogs should stay in the barn.

11. Does Grandma agree with Grandpa about dogs on the farm staying outdoors? What does she say about this?

Grandma says that she and Grandpa are living at the farmhouse temporarily, and it is not their place to tell the family what to do.

12. Why are Grandma and Grandpa living in the farmhouse temporarily? What happened to their cottage?

There was a fire that greatly damaged Grandma and Grandpa's cottage, so they had to move out for a while.

13. Why does Grandma say that the girls should not be upset with Grandpa? What does Melanie say about how Grandpa has changed?

Grandma says that Grandpa doesn't see as well as he used to and is a little irritable. Melanie says that Grandpa also forgets things more often.

14. Why does Grandma sneeze a lot? What does Grandpa do when Grandma sneezes? Why? **We can infer, or figure out, that Grandma sneezes because she's allergic to dogs. Because of this, Grandpa chases the dogs out of the house.**
15. What do Melanie and Lily want Grandpa to stop saying about Jack and Angelica? Why? **The girls want Grandpa to stop saying that the dogs should live in a doghouse or in the barn with the other animals. They want the dogs to live with them in the farmhouse.**
16. Referring to Grandpa, what does Nice Lady say is not easy? **Nice Lady says it's not easy when people insist on having everything their way.**
17. Why do the girls have to get their homework done after school? What do they have to do after dinner? **Melanie and Lily have to get their homework done after school because they have to help with a few chores in the evening.**
18. What does Jack think about Grandpa building a doghouse? **Jack is confused because he has never even seen a doghouse before.**
19. Did Jack ever hear of a dog living in a doghouse or a barn before? Where did he and his old master live? **He and his old**

master lived in the same house. Jack didn't know dogs could live in a doghouse or in the barn.

20. Before Jack came to live at the farm, what did his old master do with him every day? Does Jack want to stay in his new home at the farm or go back to his old master's house? Why? Jack's old master played ball with him every day, so Jack wishes he could play with him again.

Chapter 2 – Farm Life

Questions to Consider:

1. What do Grandma and Nice Lady do on the farm? What do they make? **They cook for the family. They also prepare and package foods such as fruits, vegetables, herbs, and goat cheese. These items, as well as soap they make from goat's milk, are sold at the farmers' market.**
2. How do Melanie and Lily help their mom and grandmother with the food and other items that they have prepared? **The girls help stack the boxes of food on the back porch. Then they use a wheeled cart to bring the boxes to the truck.**
3. Do shoppers at the farmers' market like the products sold by the Fernandez Family Farm? How do you know? **The shoppers like the family's products. Nice Lady tells Grandma that customers have been looking for the Fernandez Family Farm sign and that their stand is among the first to sell out.**
4. In what town is the farm located? **The farm is located in Autumn Blaze.**
5. Each merchant at the farmers' market loads some of the items they have brought with them onto a truck. Why do they do this? **The truck is from a charity that feeds the**

hungry. The farmers want to help people who cannot afford to buy food for their families.

6. Does the family like donating some of their products to charity? How do you know? Yes, in fact Nice Lady tells Grandma that their goal is to try to donate a little more each week.
7. What is Grandpa in charge of doing on the farm? Grandpa helps milk the goats and cows, and he feeds all the animals.
8. Why does Grandpa say that the children need to be disciplined? Grandpa says the children need to be disciplined because they keep letting the dogs back in the house after he got them to go outside.
9. Why doesn't Jack like dog food? His old master didn't give Jack dog food, so he's not used to eating it.
10. Does Jack seem to like the cold weather at the farm? What does he say? Jack isn't used to the cold weather. He says that when he stands his paws are freezing. When he sits, his butt is also freezing.
11. Does the cat on the farm seem to like cat food? What else might the cat be eating on the farm? The cat laps up the milk that Grandpa gives it, but doesn't eat the cat food

Grandpa puts out. Since the cat sits on the old fence licking its chops, perhaps it finds other things to eat, such as mice.

12. What does New Master do on the farm? Does Grandpa help? How does he help? Grandpa helps New Master filter the pails of milk into jugs, label the jugs, and put them in the refrigerator. Also, he lets the sheep out to pasture and helps New Master clean out the barn.
13. Melanie and Lily go to school. How old is Ben? When will he start school? Ben will be four years old in a few months, so he will go to prekindergarten in the fall.
14. Which child spends the most time with Jack? What do they do together? Ben spends the most time with Jack. Ben makes up games for them to play outdoors.
15. Is Jack getting used to the snow? How do you know? After playing outside for a while, Jack starts running and jumping in the snow just like Ben.
16. What do Melanie and Lily like to do when they have some free time? They like to try on different clothes and put hats on the dogs. Also, they like to write songs together and sing their songs.

17. How old are Melanie and Lily? What else does Lily like to do?
Melanie is ten years old, and Lily is seven years old. Lily likes to draw pictures.
18. What does New Master like to do in his spare time? New Master likes to play the guitar and sing. He also hums a lot.
19. What does Jack say about life with his old master compared to life on the farm? Jack says that life with his old master was a lot calmer.
20. Was it easy for Jack to be moved to a new home? How do you know? Jack misses his life with his old master. He wants to see him again.

Chapter 3 – An Outdoor Game

Questions to Consider:

1. What does Melanie offer to make for her sister and brother after they've been playing outside in the snow? **She offers to make them hot chocolate.**
2. What is different about Grandma that makes Lily notice something has changed? **Lily notices that Grandma is not sneezing anymore.**
3. What does Grandpa do that Lily doesn't like? **He keeps trying to send Angelica and Jack outside.**
4. Grandma explains the reason for Grandpa's views. What does she say? **Grandma explains that Grandpa grew up on a farm where the animals were kept outside all the time.**
5. Who seems to be more old-fashioned, Grandma or Grandpa? How do you know? **Grandpa seems to be more old-fashioned. Grandma tells him that times have changed and dogs live indoors in many families today.**
6. How does Jack feel about living in a dog house or the barn? **Jack doesn't want to live in a dog house or in the barn. He wants to be in the farmhouse with his family.**

7. What does Grandma say about life in Miguel and Isabel's (New Master and Nice Lady's) home? **Grandma says that she and Grandpa are guests there and that their son, Miguel, and their daughter-in-law, Isabel, can run their home any way they want.**
8. How long has Ben been living with the Fernandez family? **Ben has been living with the Fernandez family for almost two months.**
9. Which of the children is usually the one who wants to share food with Jack? **Ben usually wants to share food with Jack.**
10. What does New Master give Ben to play with while the girls are doing their homework? **New Master gives Ben a flying disc.**
11. Does Jack like playing with the flying disc? How do you know? **Yes, Jack likes playing with it. Ben throws the disc to him, then claps and smiles when Jack brings it back. Jack and Ben enjoy playing together.**
12. What breed of dog is Jack? What does it mean to *retrieve* something? **Jack is a Labrador Retriever. The breed is good at retrieving, or bringing things back.**
13. What does New Master think Jack will be good at someday? Why? **New Master thinks Jack will be a good hunting dog**

someday. A hunting dog might retrieve small animals, or bring them to the hunter.

14. Why does Jack like New Master? Jack likes New Master because he is kind, which reminds Jack of his old master.
15. The girls wish Grandpa would stop complaining. What is he complaining about? Grandpa is still complaining about the dogs being in the house. He thinks they will be safe in the barn with the other animals.
16. Why does Melanie want Jack in the house, especially at night? Melanie wants Jack in the house because she hears coyotes at night and she's afraid he won't be safe outdoors with the coyotes.
17. Do the girls also like playing with Jack and the flying disc? Why? Yes, Melanie and Lily also like playing with Jack and the flying disc. It's fun to see Jack try to catch the disc and bring it back to them.
18. What do Grandpa and New Master like to do for fun? Grandpa and New Master like to play cards.
19. How long has Jack been with the family? Who arrived first, Ben or Jack? Jack has been with the family for over a month. Ben arrived there a few weeks before Jack.

20. Why do you think New Master has to tell Grandpa *once again* how Jack joined the family? **Answers will vary. Maybe Grandpa is forgetful and doesn't remember why Jack joined the family.**

Chapter 4 – Jimmy’s Offer

Questions to Consider:

1. This chapter is a flashback. Who calls New Master at the beginning of the chapter? **New Master receives a call from his friend, Jimmy.**
2. Who is Jimmy? How does New Master know him? **Jimmy was New Master’s commanding officer in the army. He was a major and New Master was a sergeant.**
3. Why does Jimmy have to find a new home for his dog? **Jimmy is moving to Manhattan, and pets are not allowed in his new apartment. Jack would be alone most of the day in the apartment anyway since Jimmy will be working long hours.**
4. Why does the Fernandez family agree to adopt Jack? **Miguel and Isabel agree to adopt Jack because they have plenty of room on the farm. Also, they know their children would love to have another dog.**
5. Where does Jimmy live? **He moved from a house in Florida to an apartment in New York City.**

6. What does New Master do besides tend to his farm? **New Master is a pilot who flies small planes. He also works in construction at times.**
7. Why does New Master say that Jack seemed to know that he was going to be leaving his old master? What did Jack do? **Jack sat back on his hind legs, lifted his paw, and put it right into Jimmy's hand. Also, he whimpered and looked sad.**
8. Grandpa says that dogs are smart animals. Do you agree with that statement? Why? **Answers will vary.**
9. What was Jack fascinated by during the plane ride from Tampa, FL to NY? **Jack was fascinated by the clouds below.**
10. Who was waiting for New Master and Jack at the Autumn Blaze Station? What were they looking forward to doing? **Isabel was waiting for Miguel and Jack at the Station. They were looking forward to surprising their kids with a dog.**
11. Jack thinks Grandpa likes hearing how he got to the farmhouse. Why does Grandpa ask New Master over and over again how Jack got there? **Grandpa probably forgets the story of how Jack came to live with the family.**
12. Did it snow where Jack used to live? Is he starting to like the snow? **It never snowed where Jack used to live, but he is starting to like the snow.**

13. Jack is adjusting to life at the farmhouse, except for a couple of things. What doesn't he seem to like? **Jack doesn't like the dog food his new family is giving him to eat. Also, Jack was used to living in the house with Jimmy and spending time in their backyard. He never lived in a doghouse or in a barn.**
14. What does Grandpa say about animals eating food that has been made for them rather than table food? **He says that animals should eat food that has been made for them, and that Jack will have to get used to life on the farm.**
15. Grandpa explains why dogs should live in a doghouse or in the barn. What does he say? **According to Grandpa, animals have jobs to do on the farm, and you might as well not even have them if they aren't going to earn their keep on the farm.**
16. What does New Master say to Grandpa about why the kids want the dogs in the house? **New Master explains that the kids hear coyotes howling at night and they're worried about the dogs being attacked.**
17. What is Grandpa's response to what New Master said? **Grandpa says that the coyotes won't bother the dogs if they're in the barn. Also, Jack should be kept outdoors because Grandma is allergic to his fur.**

18. Why do you think Grandpa starts to doze off while Melanie is talking to him? **Grandpa is older and tires more easily now.**
19. Why does New Master say they will wait until Ben's a little older to tell him that he was adopted? **New Master says that Ben will understand everything better when he's a little older.**
20. Why is Jack hoping that his old master will come back for him? **Jack is having a difficult time adjusting to life on the farm. He has to get used to eating dog food and Grandpa keeps saying that he should live in a doghouse or in the barn.**

Chapter 5 – Party Time

Questions to Consider:

1. What grade is Melanie in this year? Is she in a new school?
Melanie is in the sixth grade. She's in middle school now.
2. Does Melanie like her classes? Which subject is difficult for her?
She likes her classes, but math is difficult for her.
3. According to Lily, what did Melanie say about middle school?
According to Lily, Melanie said that middle school is a little like jail.
4. What does New Master say about school? What does Nice Lady say about it?
New Master says he would like school much more than he did if he could go back and live his life all over again. Nice Lady agrees. She says we don't realize how much fun it is to be in school until we're out of school.
5. What did Lily give Melanie for her birthday?
Lily painted a picture of Jack and Angelica for Melanie.
6. What did Melanie's parents give her?
Her parents gave her clothes and a notebook computer.
7. Did Grandma and Grandpa also have a gift for Melanie? What was it?
Grandma and Grandpa gave Melanie a card with some money in it.

8. What did Ben give Melanie? **Ben drew a picture of all the farm animals for Melanie.**
9. Melanie tells her dad that she is worried about Grandpa. Why is she concerned? **Melanie is concerned because Grandpa takes lots of naps now and doesn't remember things as well as he did in the past.**
10. Why is Melanie glad that Grandma and Grandpa live in a cottage on the farm? **She's glad they live in a cottage on the farm because she can see them often.**
11. Melanie notices that Ben is not as quiet as he was when he first moved in with the family? What does he like to do? **Ben likes spending time with the animals.**
12. What does Lily say when her sister asks if she is happy that the family adopted Ben? What would she like, if it were possible? **Lily is happy they adopted Ben. She wishes she could have a little brother but still be the baby.**
13. What happened to Ben's dad? **He died in an accident.**
14. What does Jack do when he wants attention from Melanie? Name some other ways in which pets get attention from people. **Jack nudges Melanie's leg or hand when he wants attention.**

15. What does Lily think about being the middle child now instead of the younger one? **She's afraid that being the middle child will not be as special as being the older or younger child.**
16. What does Melanie tell Lily about her position in the family? **Melanie tells Lily that she's still the younger girl and now she gets to be a big sister.**
17. Why is Ben familiar with farm life? **Ben's grandparents have a farm in Ohio so he's familiar with farm animals.**
18. Nice Lady jots something down in a small pad that she keeps in her pocket. What do you think she might be writing? **Answers will vary.**
19. Why does Melanie keep thinking about Grandma and Grandpa? What does her mom tell her? **Melanie thinks about Grandma and Grandpa because they're getting older and they won't be around forever. Her mom tells her that nothing in life is guaranteed, but she believes Grandma and Grandpa will be with them for a long time.**
20. What does Jack think about girl-talk? What does he do when Melanie talks to her mom? **Jack doesn't like girl-talk. He leaves the room when Melanie talks to her mom.**

Chapter 6 – No Dog Food, Please!

Questions to Consider:

1. New Master flips Jack's food around his bowl, and Jack looks at it to see if the flipping has changed the food. Has it? **No, flipping the food around hasn't changed it. It's still dog food.**
2. Jack misses the food he ate at his old master's house. What did his old master give him? **His old master gave him hamburgers, hot dogs, and chicken.**
3. Jack got hurt once when he jumped up on his old master's barbecue. What did he learn from that experience? **He learned not to go near the barbecue again.**
4. What does Ben share with Jack when no one is watching him? Why does Ben like to share what he has with Jack? **Ben shares pieces of toast, cucumbers, lettuce, and apples. He also shares bits of his ice cream pops. He loves Jack so he likes to share his food with him.**
5. When Ben asks his mom and dad if he can share his food with Jack, what do they say? **His mom and dad say that dog food is made especially for dogs and that Ben needs to eat his own meals.**

6. Does Ben listen to his parents? **No, Ben secretly continues to share his food with Jack.**
7. Do New Master and Nice Lady give Jack table food or dog food? What do different pets usually eat? **New Master and Nice Lady give Jack dog food.**
8. Would Jack like to go back to his old home? How do you know? **Jack misses his old master and would like to go back to his old home. He sniffs along the fence, but can't figure out how to get back.**
9. Does Jack like it when Ben and Lily say, "Doggie breath again?" Does he like it better when Melanie pets him? **Jack prefers it when Melanie pets him rather than when the younger children hug him and say, "Doggie breath again."**
21. Does Jack like it when Melanie and Lily put hats on his head? What would he prefer instead of hats? Why? **Jack doesn't like having hats put on his head. He could use warm boots, though, because his paws are cold in the snow.**

Chapter 7 – Spring is in the Air

Aim/Objectives:

1. The Fernandez Family Farm is mostly a produce farm. What does that mean? What do they grow? **They grow fruits and vegetables.**
2. Who taught New Master how to be a farmer? **New Master learned from his father.**
3. What does Grandpa do the old-fashioned way on the farm? Does Melanie want to do things the old-fashioned way? **Grandpa wants to keep the dogs in the barn because that's the way it was on his father's farm. Melanie doesn't want to do things the old-fashioned way. (*Understanding*)**

Questions to Consider:

1. What is Jack wondering about the rooster? How are roosters different from dogs? **Jack is wondering why the rooster doesn't sleep like he does. Unlike dogs, roosters crow very early in the morning.**
2. What does Grandpa make Jack do some nights? Does Jack like this? Why? **Grandpa makes Jack sleep in the barn with the other animals some nights. Jack doesn't like to sleep in the barn. He wants to be in the house with the family.**

3. Where does Jack sleep when Grandpa's not around? He sleeps in a bed that New Master and Nice Lady put in a corner of their bedroom.
4. Why does Ben follow Jack around? Ben doesn't want Jack to be alone.
5. What do New Master and the girls talk about on their way to check on the animals? What did Melanie say she learned in school? New Master asks the girls what they're learning in school. Melanie says she learned that the Native Americans helped the early American farmers grow potatoes, corn, and other crops.
6. How did Grandpa learn farming many years ago? What did you learn from your parents or grandparents? Grandpa learned farming from his family and from organizations such as the Future Farmers of America and the local 4-H Club.
7. What does Lily like seeing on the farm? Lily likes seeing the new plants grow in the spring.
8. What does Melanie like about winter? Melanie likes winter on the farm. She enjoys writing when it's quiet.
9. Melanie and Lily have been helping out on the farm since they were little. What have they been doing? Lily started picking strawberries when she was very young. Both girls

helped milk the animals at times. In addition to doing chores on the farm, Melanie helped her mom and grandma in the house.

10. Why does the family milk the cows and goats by hand instead of using milking machines? Why do other farmers use milking machines? They only have a few dozen goats and cows, so it doesn't take long to milk them by hand. Also, Grandpa likes to do things the old-fashioned way, the way he was taught.
11. Why does New Master say that people get set in their ways sometimes, and change happens slowly for them? Have you found this to be true? Grandpa believes dogs should live outside because that's the way it was on his father's farm. When New Master says people get set in their ways, he means they often continue doing what they're used to doing.
12. What does the Fernandez family do with the sheep on their farm? Do they milk them? They don't milk the sheep because sheep produce only a small amount of milk. Instead, they breed their sheep and sell some to a local dairy farm that makes different kinds of cheese from sheep's milk.
13. Which farm would Melanie like to visit in the spring? She would like to visit the local dairy farm.

22. Has Ben milked goats before? Where? Does he want to help out on the Fernandez family farm? **Ben has milked goats on his grandfather's farm. He says he's ready to start helping New Master and Grandpa on this farm.**

14. Why does Jack think cows don't like being milked? **Jack thinks cows don't like being milked because they moo all the time.**

Chapter 8 – Strange Happenings

Questions to Consider:

1. Does Nice Lady cook outdoors a lot like Jack's old master did? Why do you think she prepares meals indoors more often? **Jack's old master probably cooked outdoors often because the weather was warmer in Florida. Nice Lady doesn't cook outdoors as often because she lives in a colder climate.**
2. Who took the bread that Nice Lady made? Why did he take it? **Ben took the bread because he wanted to share it with the sheep.**
3. Something special is happening in this chapter? What is it? **A ewe is in labor and is going to give birth to a lamb.**
4. What is Melanie tired of hearing Grandpa say? **Melanie is tired of hearing Grandpa say that Jack belongs outdoors.**
5. What does New Master say about people having different opinions? Are they entitled to their own opinions? Do you have to agree with them? **New Master says that people are entitled to their own opinions, and that you don't have to agree with them.**

6. Does New Master get upset when Melanie says she'll like it better when Grandpa and Grandma are back in their own house? Why or why not? **New Master does not get upset. He says that Melanie is entitled to her opinion, too.**
7. What does Melanie want to do when she's older? **She says she wants to be a writer and a farmer.**
8. New Master explains that there are fewer farms in the United States than there were years ago, yet they produce more than farms did previously. Why do you think that's the case? What has changed a lot over the years? (Hint: Did people have cell phones a century ago?) **Answers will vary. Technology has changed a lot over the years.**
9. Why does New Master sometimes work in construction in addition to being a farmer? **New Master works in construction at times because it's difficult to make a living on a small farm.**
10. Does Melanie like helping out at the farmers' market? What does she find difficult? **Melanie likes helping out at the farmers' market, but packing the boxes is a big job.**
11. Why do New Master and Grandpa move the ewe to the center of the stall? **They move the ewe to the center of the stall so the lamb will have more room to come out.**

12. Why does New Master wipe the baby lamb's face with a dry towel? **New Master wipes the lamb's face and nose with a towel to clear the airway.**
13. Why does the sheep start to lick the newborn lamb? **The sheep licks the lamb to clean, warm, and stimulate it.**
14. How long after its birth will the baby lamb stand up? **The newborn lamb will stand up in about five to ten minutes.**
15. Has Ben seen a lamb being born before? Where? **Ben saw a lamb being born on his grandad's farm.**
16. Does Ben want his new family to visit his grandad's farm? Who does he want his grandparents to meet? **Ben wants his new family to visit his grandparents' farm. He wants his grandparents to meet everyone, especially Jack.**
17. What does Jack think when Grandma goes to the house to get a small blanket for the lamb? What might this indicate? **Jack wonders if anyone has a blanket for him. This might indicate that he feels a little jealous of all the attention the newborn lamb is getting.**
18. What does Ben do while his sisters are at school? **He visits the farm animals as often as he can. Also, he plays with a big ball New Master had given him. They play catch sometimes, too.**

19. Melanie and Lily like to write songs that are actually rhyming poems. Do you like to write songs or poems? What do you enjoy writing? **Answers will vary.**
20. What do you predict will happen next? Will Jack stop wishing for his old master to return? Will he get used to dog food? Will he have to sleep in a doghouse or the barn like Grandpa prefers? **Answers will vary.**

Chapter 9 – A Scary Night

Questions to Consider:

1. What is it called when the author goes back in time to tell us something that happened before the story started? We saw this in an earlier chapter when the author went back in the past to tell us how Jack happened to join the family. **It's called a flashback.**
2. Why did Jack start to bark and scratch the front door of the house? **Jack did this because he smelled the smoke that was coming from the cottage.**
21. Who went to the cottage while Isabel called the fire department? Where did they find Grandpa? Where was Grandma? **Miguel and Jack went to the cottage while Isabel called the fire department. They found Grandpa dozing in his chair in the living room. Grandma was sitting up in bed, coughing.**
3. What did Jack see on the stove while New Master was leading Grandma and Grandpa to the door? **Jack saw a pan sizzling on the stove surrounded by a flame.**
4. Did Grandpa get hurt in the cottage? How? **Small pieces of the ceiling fell and landed on him.**

5. Did Jack get hurt? How? **He hurt his paws when he stepped on the burned pieces of the ceiling that had fallen.**
6. Does Grandma understand how the fire could have started while they were sleeping? **No, Grandma cannot understand how the fire could have started.**
7. According to the firemen, how did the fire start? **One of the firemen explained that the fire started in the kitchen. He said someone left a pan on the stove with the gas on, and the pan caught fire.**
8. What did Grandpa say he did because he couldn't sleep? **Grandpa said he couldn't sleep, so he got up to make some warm milk.**
9. Why did Grandma and Grandpa move into the farmhouse? **They moved into the farmhouse because they couldn't continue to live in the cottage until it was repaired.**
10. What does Melanie tell Grandpa when he says he doesn't understand what could have happened? **Melanie tells him that he must have dozed off.**
11. Why wasn't New Master's friend surprised when he heard that Jack smelled the smoke coming from the cottage and started barking? **New Master's friend wasn't surprised**

because he knew that dogs have a much stronger sense of smell than humans.

12. Grandpa says that Jack did a good job smelling the smoke because he was outside where he belongs. Was that true?

No, Melanie tells him that Jack was actually inside on the back porch when he smelled the smoke.

13. Was there any mention of a smoke detector in the cottage?

Should a working smoke detector have been there? How could it have helped?

There was no mention of a smoke detector in the cottage. Working smoke detectors should have been there. If a smoke detector had gone off, Grandma or Grandpa might have seen the pan on the stove and turned off the gas, preventing the fire.

14. What else other than smoke detectors should be in place to protect against fires? Answers will vary.

Chapter 10 – Help For Grandpa

Questions to Consider:

1. Does it seem like Ben has a good relationship with his nana and grandad? How do you know? **Ben seems sad when he talks about his grandparents, maybe because he is not seeing them now.**
2. How does Ben react when New Master asks him if he would like to help out on the farm? **Ben appears to be happy to start helping out on the farm.**
3. Why do farmers plow the fields? **Farmers plow the fields to break up the hard soil., which makes it easier to plant crops. Also, plowing helps with root growth and water absorption.**
4. What does Ben think of Grandpa's comments? **Ben thinks Grandpa's comments are funny.**
5. What did Melanie learn in school that could help Grandpa? Why does she think he might need help? **Melanie learned that Grandpa could qualify to have a guide dog someday. She thinks he might need help since he had a fire in his kitchen.**
6. How does Grandpa react to Melanie's suggestion? What does he say he would prefer over having a guide dog himself?

Grandpa says he doesn't want a guide dog. In fact, he would prefer to train guide dogs, but he's too busy with his work on the farm.

7. What does Grandma tell Melanie about why the fire in the cottage occurred? Was it because of Grandpa's poor vision or something else? **Grandma tells Melanie that the fire started because Grandpa is more forgetful now, not because of his vision.**
8. Why did Melanie's teacher tell the students about the Guide Dog Foundation? **Melanie's teacher is a volunteer puppy trainer for the Guide Dog Foundation.**
9. Does Grandpa like to joke around? How do you know? **He jokes around with everyone in the family. When Melanie said she learned something in school, Grandpa said that can happen when you go to school.**
10. Why does Grandpa say he can't have a guide dog next to him all day? **Grandpa says that having a dog next to him all day would drive him crazy. Also, he doesn't think he needs a guide dog.**
11. Does Grandpa think Jack would have made a good guide dog? Why? **Grandpa thinks Jack would have made a good guide dog because he's smart.**

12. Why did Jack start barking one night? **Jack started barking because he heard growling and barking outside.**
13. What did New Master see when he went outside to investigate? **New Master saw coyote tracks in the snow.**
14. What did New Master say about how coyotes got onto their property? **New Master said there might be a gap in the old fence, or the coyote could have jumped the fence.**
15. Melanie and Lily were frightened when they went to the henhouse to get the eggs. What do you think happened to the eggs? **Answers will vary.**

Chapter 11 – A Thief in the Night

Questions to Consider:

1. What does New Master think happened to the eggs in the henhouse? **New Master thinks a skunk got into the henhouse, broke the eggs, and left the shells behind.**
2. What is the first thing New Master says they should do? **He says they should check the henhouse and repair anything that would allow an animal to get in.**
3. Why will they set up a light with a motion detector? **Skunks are nocturnal. They don't like the light. If they come during the night, and the light goes on, they may run off instead of going after the eggs.**
4. Did the light scare the animal away? **The light startled the skunk, but didn't scare it away.**
5. Why does Grandpa suggest spreading orange and lemon peels around the henhouse? **Grandpa suggests spreading orange and lemon peels around the henhouse because skunks hate the citrus scent. Therefore, this might keep them away from the henhouse.**
6. Why does the family need to replace the fence around the property? How will that stop the skunk from coming onto the

property? It seems that a skunk is getting onto the farm by going underneath the old fence. The family's plan is to build a new fence that the skunk can't get under.

7. Grandpa is good at building things. What did he make for the girls' room? Grandpa made a shelf for the girls' room.
8. Why did Jack break out of the locked barn? Jack broke out of the locked barn because he heard the clicking sound of the motion detector.
9. Did Jack listen when New Master called him away from the skunk? What did the skunk do to Jack? Jack did not listen when New Master called him away from the skunk. The skunk sprayed Jack.
10. Who gives Jack a bath? Does he like it? New Master gives Jack a warm bath, which he likes.
11. Why is Lily angry? What does she say to Grandpa? Lily is angry because Jack was sprayed by the skunk. She asks Grandpa if he is going to keep making Jack sleep outside.
12. Where does Ben want Jack to sleep from now on? Do New Master and Grandpa agree? Ben wants Jack to sleep in his room from now on. New Master and Grandpa agree.

13. Why didn't Grandpa's father have time to teach him everything? **Grandpa's father died when Grandpa was young.**
14. What does Grandpa give Jack that night during dinner? Why do you think he does this? **Grandpa gives Jack a bone with some meat on it. He does this because he feels bad that Jack was sprayed by the skunk.**
15. Will New Master allow Melanie to help build the new fence? Why? What does he say? **New Master will allow Melanie to help build the fence. He says they can use all the help they can get.**

Literary Devices

Literary devices are techniques authors use to make their writing more descriptive and interesting. These are a few of them: **simile**, **metaphor**, **onomatopoeia**, and **personification**. Identify the literary devices used in the following sentences and write them on the lines provided.

1. Grandma was patient even when Grandpa was difficult. She had a heart of gold. _____ metaphor _____
2. The wind howled all night. _____ personification _____
3. The animal noises in the book, such as Woof-Woof, are examples of this literary device: _____ onomatopoeia _____
4. Jack didn't like dog food and so many nights he was as hungry as a horse. _____ simile _____
5. Grandpa seemed to be watching the dogs a lot. Even though his vision was slowly deteriorating, Jack thought he had eyes like a hawk. _____ simile _____

Which of these literary devices would you like to use in your writing? Do you have a favorite one, or do you like them all? Why?

Answers will vary. _____

Chapter 12 – A Change in Plans

Questions to Consider:

1. Why does a tree need to be pruned at the farm? Who will do this work? The tree branches are hanging over the fence and will be in the way, so they need to be pruned. Grandpa, New Master, Melanie, and Rob will take care of the tree together.
2. Who cuts the tree branches? What do Rob, Melanie, and Grandpa do? New Master cuts the tree branches. Rob, Melanie, and Grandpa move them away from the tree and cut them into smaller pieces.
3. Does New Master want Grandpa to climb the ladder? What does he tell him to do? Does Grandpa listen to his son? New Master does not want Grandpa to climb the ladder. He tells him to help Rob and Melanie chop the branches into smaller pieces. Grandpa says he'll use the pole trimmer, but then he grabs a hand saw and climbs a small ladder to make the work easier.
4. What do Melanie and Rob tell Grandpa? Does he listen to them? Melanie and Rob also tell Grandpa not to climb the ladder. Grandpa doesn't listen. He says a small ladder is not a problem for him.

5. What happens to Lily? What does Jack do? Lily slips on a wet rock and falls. Jack runs over to see if she's okay.
6. Then what happens to Grandpa? He turns to see what happened. Then he loses his balance and the ladder tips over.
7. What happens to Angelica? Where do they take her? She is hit in the back by the ladder and knocked into the pond. Jack pulls her out of the pond. New Master and Melanie take Angelica to the veterinarian.
8. What does the veterinarian say? Dr. Kincaid says Angelica might have hurt her hind legs. She's going to take x-rays.
9. Can Angelica walk when she comes home from the hospital? Angelica cannot walk when she comes home from the hospital because her back legs are injured.
10. How is Grandpa different now? Where is he spending a lot of time? Grandpa is quieter than usual and doesn't mind as much when Jack is in the house. Also, he's spending a lot of time in the tool shed.

Name _____

Date _____

Chapter 13 – Restoring the House

Questions to Consider:

1. What are Frank and his sons going to do on the farm? **Frank and his sons are going to help repair the cottage.**
2. Why does Jack start barking as the work on the cottage is about to begin? **Jack starts barking because he hears something underneath the deck of the cottage.**
3. What does New Master see when he looks under the deck? Which animal is with the cat and her kittens? **New Master sees a cat, some kittens, and a skunk.**
4. Why was the skunk trapped on the property after the new fence went up? **The skunk wasn't able to leave the farm because it couldn't get past the new fence.**
5. New Master has a surprise for his parents. What is it? What do Grandma and Grandpa say about the surprise? **New Master surprises his parents with furniture for their cottage. Grandma and Grandpa are very happy. They say the place looks even better than before, and they thank everyone.**

6. We finally find out why Grandpa had been spending time in the tool shed. What was he making there? **Grandpa was making a wheelchair for Angelica in the tool shed.**
7. Who is able to help Angelica move in her new wheelchair? How does he do that? **Jack helps Angelica move in her wheelchair by pushing her forward a little at a time.**
8. What does Grandpa say about the way Jack is helping Angelica? **Grandpa says that Jack made a good guide dog, and he didn't even need any training.**
9. What is Grandpa going to do to the wheelchair so that Angelica can move it more easily? **Grandpa is going to put more oil on the wheels so Angelica can move by herself.**
10. Why did Grandpa make the wheelchair for Angelica? Is she expected to be able to walk again? **Grandpa made the wheelchair for Angelica so she can get around while her legs are healing. She might be able to walk without the wheelchair in a few weeks.**

Cause and Effect

The cause is **WHY** something happened.

The effect is **WHAT** happened.

Fill in the chart with a cause or effect from this book. Then add three more causes and effects from any of the chapters we have read so far.

Cause	Effect
In a previous chapter, Jack watched New Master flip the food around in his bowl.	Unfortunately for Jack, the flipping didn't change the food.
The family put up a new fence so that animals would be unable to dig underneath it and get on the farm.	The skunk was trapped on the property.
New Master got new furniture for his parents.	Grandma and Grandpa were surprised and happy.
Grandpa will put oil on the wheels of Angelica's wheelchair.	Hopefully, Angelica will be able to move forward in the wheelchair on her own.

Chapter 14 – Rainy Day Blues

Questions to Consider:

1. Why is everyone a little gloomy? **Everyone is a little gloomy because it has been raining all day.**
2. Where did New Master and the girls go? Where are Nice Lady, Ben, and Jack? **New Master and the girls went to a basketball game at Melanie's school. Nice Lady, Ben, and Jack stayed home.**
3. What does Jack do to make Ben laugh? **Jack rolls over onto his back to make Ben laugh.**
4. Which sports do Melanie and Lily like to play? **Melanie likes to play volleyball and badminton. Lily likes to play volleyball also.**
5. What product does the family grow on the farm that Lily likes eating? **Lily likes working with Melanie. Also, she likes eating the sweet corn that the family grows on the farm.**
6. How do farmers make money from their crops? Do they keep everything they grow? Why or why not? **Farmers keep what they need for their families, and sell the rest of their crops. They don't need all of what they grow, and they have to make money to keep their farms going.**

7. Did Nice Lady seem to like seeing Ben and Jack having fun together on that rainy day? How do you know? **Nice Lady liked seeing Ben and Jack having fun. She smiled when she saw them playing together.**
8. What does Ben tell Nice Lady about Jack? **Ben tells Nice Lady that he loves Jack.**
9. What does Melanie notice about Ben? **Melanie notices that Ben is talking to their mom and dad more often.**
10. Does Jack like his new family? What does he miss about his old life? **Jack likes his new family. However, he misses his old master and he still doesn't like dog food.**

Chapter 15 – Now or Never

Questions to Consider:

1. Jack realizes that he needs to communicate more effectively with his family. What does he do? **Jack pushes his bowl until the dog food is all over the floor.**
2. How does the family react to what Jack does? Is one person more understanding than the others? **New Master and Grandpa are annoyed. Lily thinks what Jack did is funny. Melanie asks her mom why Jack did that. Nice Lady is the most understanding. She realizes that Jack is trying to find a way to communicate with them.**
3. What does Grandpa say about what Jack did? Is he understanding? **Grandpa is not understanding. He says that dogs must eat dog food and that Jack must be disciplined.**
4. What do Melanie and Lily decide to do that day? Why? **Melanie and Lily decide to write a song about what Jack did because they think it would be funny.**
5. Jack seems to try to look after one of the children more than the others. Why do you think a dog would do that? **Jack seems to look after Ben more than the other children. This could be because Ben is smaller. Also, it could be because Jack sees the girls together a lot, but Ben is away from them at times.**

Chapter 16 – Doctor... Please Help!

Questions to Consider:

1. Why is Lily concerned about Jack running away from home?
Lily is concerned that Jack might run away from home if he doesn't like the dog food there.
2. Melanie has a plan to solve the dog food problem. What is her plan? Do you think she has a good idea? Melanie's idea is to ask the veterinarian for help. It seems like a good idea.
3. Why does Nice Lady say that the kids shouldn't be worried about Jack running away? Does she agree with Melanie's idea, though? Nice Lady says the kids shouldn't be worried about Jack running away because he depends on them for his welfare, and Labs are uncomfortable outside their territory. However, she agrees with Melanie and asks her to make the call to the veterinarian while she finishes cleaning up the kitchen.
4. What does Melanie do after she talks to Dr. Kincaid? After she talks to Dr. Kincaid, Melanie goes into the kitchen to talk to her mom.
5. Do Ben and Jack seem to be close? How do you know? Yes, they seem to be close. Ben got down on the floor to be close

to Jack. Then Jack moved over so he was even closer to Ben and could hear his heart beating.

6. What did the veterinarian tell Melanie? Is it okay for Jack to eat anything other than dog food? **The veterinarian told Melanie that Jack can eat other foods. She said she would send the family a chart so that they would know what they could give him.**
7. What did New Master give Jack to eat after Melanie's talk with the veterinarian? Did Jack like it? **New Master gave Jack chicken to eat. Jack liked it a lot.**
8. Did Grandpa change his mind about Jack eating dog food rather than table food? **No, Grandpa still insists that dogs should eat dog food.**
9. What does New Master say when Melanie asks him who is right, Grandpa or the veterinarian? **New Master says that sometimes there's more than one right way to do something.**
10. What is New Master's decision about what Jack will eat from now on? **New Master decides that they will get rid of the dog food so that everyone can be happy, including Jack.**

11. How does Jack feel about New Master's promise to get rid of the dog food? **Jack is very happy about New Master's decision to get rid of the dog food.**
12. Is Ben an active child? What does he like to do? **Ben is very active. He likes to run around, play games, and climb small trees.**

Chapter 17 – Fresh-picked Breakfast

Questions to Consider:

1. What is Sunday morning like at the Fernandez family farm? What does Nice Lady make for breakfast? **The whole family has breakfast together. Nice Lady makes potatoes and eggs, toast, and fresh strawberry jam. Many of the foods the family eats come from the garden or the greenhouse.**
2. The family sells some of their products at the farmers' market. Why do they also buy some of the products that other farmers make? **They enjoy products that their neighbors make, such as fresh bread and other baked goods.**
3. How does Grandpa react when Nice Lady gives Ben some scrambled eggs to put in Jack's bowl? Does he complain like he did before? **Grandpa frowns, but he doesn't complain like he did before.**
4. Melanie seems happier these days. Why? **Melanie is becoming friends with a boy in her class. His name is Enrique, but the kids call him Henry or Harry.**
5. What is Melanie hoping to do someday? Why? **She's hoping to invite her new friend to the farm someday. He told her it must be fun to live on a farm.**

6. What does Lily do to tease Melanie? Lily walks around the room whispering a song because Melanie has a crush on a boy.
7. What does Melanie notice about Grandpa? Is he forgetting everything, or does he still do some things well? Melanie notices that Grandpa forgets some things at times, like when to take his medicine. However, he remembers other things, like how to play cards.
8. What does Melanie ask her dad about Ben? What does Nice Lady say? Melanie asks her dad how they found out about Ben. Nice Lady says she was the one who found out about him.
9. Why was Ben put up for adoption? What happened to his parents? Ben was put up for adoption after his father died in an accident. His mother had passed away from an illness when he was very young.
10. When will Ben's grandparents be able to visit him? What type of adoption does the family have? Ben's grandparents will be able to visit him because the family has an open adoption.

Words and names used by the Fernandez Family

Match the Spanish and English words and names

<u> D </u>	Hola	A) Poor thing!
<u> E </u>	José	B) Outside!
<u> B </u>	¡Fuera!	C) Michael
<u> F </u>	leche	D) Hello
<u> H </u>	Josefina	E) Joseph
<u> A </u>	¡Pobrecito!	F) milk
<u> I </u>	¡Qué bonito!	G) Elizabeth
<u> C </u>	Miguel	H) Josephine
<u> G </u>	Isabel	I) How pretty!

Words that come from other countries

Grandma uses words Jack doesn't understand. Does anyone in your family speak a language that you don't understand? Explain.

Match the Spanish and English words

<u>H</u>	Sí	A) Fabulous
<u>D</u>	gracias	B) Happy Birthday
<u>I</u>	mi amigo	C) Delicious!
<u>F</u>	mi amor	D) thank you
<u>G</u>	mi familia	E) Fantastic
<u>C</u>	Delicioso	F) my love
<u>A</u>	Fabuloso	G) my family
<u>E</u>	Fantástico	H) Yes
<u>B</u>	¡Felíz Cumpleaños!	I) my friend

Cognates are words that are similar in different languages.

Which of the words are cognates in English and Spanish?

mi familia, Delicioso, Fabuloso, Fantástico

Chapter 18 – A Windy Day

Questions to Consider:

1. Why does New Master tell the kids that they have to go inside the house? **New Master tells the kids they have to go inside the house because it's very windy outside.**
2. What is Melanie doing more often now? With whom do you think she is communicating? **Melanie is texting someone. She might be communicating with a friend from school.**
3. Does Ben behave differently on this rainy day than he did the other day when it had rained a lot? How is he different? What does he ask Lily to do? **Yes, Ben behaves differently from the way he did the other time it had rained a lot. Instead of standing by the window, he sits and plays with his sisters and Jack. Ben asks Lily if she can draw a horse.**
4. According to Melanie, how did Lily get better at drawing pictures? **According to Melanie, Lily got better at drawing because she practiced a lot.**
5. What does New Master give Ben? Is Ben happy to have it? **New Master gives Ben a camera. He's happy to have it.**

6. What does New Master suggest that Ben do other than practice his drawing? **New Master suggests that Ben start with an easier drawing.**
7. Why does Jack like sitting close to the children? **Jack likes sitting close to the children because he has to guard them.**
8. What do the kids do as soon as the wind calms down after lunch? **As soon as the wind calms down after lunch, the children ask if they can go outside.**
9. What does Ben see on the ground after the storm? **Ben sees a large tree branch on the ground. Also, he sees a nest with baby birds inside it.**
10. What is perched on top of a fence post? What does it seem to want? What does Jack do? **A cat is perched on top of a fence post. It jumps down and creeps toward the nest. It seems to want to spring toward Ben and the birds. Jack barks and chases the cat away.**
11. What does New Master do with the nest? **New Master gets a ladder and puts the nest back into the tree.**
12. What does Nice Lady say they will do if the mother bird doesn't return? **Nice Lady says the family will take care of the birds if the mother doesn't return.**

13. What does Grandpa say about Jack? Grandpa says that Jack is a good watchdog.
14. Why was Lily concerned about Ben? What does this indicate about her? Lily was concerned about Ben because he could have been hurt by the cat. This indicates that Lily is maturing. She loves Ben and is concerned about his safety.
15. Does Jack like his new home? Do you think he will ever forget his old master? Why or why not? Jack likes his new home, but he still thinks about his old master. Jack will probably always remember his old master because he was happy living with him.

Chapter 19 – A Family Trip

Questions to Consider:

1. Where is the family going? Why is Melanie concerned? **The family is going to Ben's grandparents' farm in Ohio. Melanie is concerned because Ben's grandparents don't know they're coming.**
2. Jack is also going on the trip. Who will take care of Angelica while they're gone? **Grandma and Grandpa will take care of Angelica while they're gone.**
3. Why didn't Grandpa build a doghouse as he had planned? How does Lily react to this news? **Grandpa didn't build a doghouse as he had planned because he changed his mind about dogs being outside. Lily is surprised to hear this.**
4. Where does Ben go as soon as they get to the farm in Ohio? Where do the others go? **As soon as they get to the farm, Ben runs to the barn to see the animals. The others go to the front door of the house.**
5. Who is Eddie? What is he doing at Ben's grandparents' farm? **Eddie's family owns the farm down the road. Ben's grandparents hired him to help out on their farm after Ben's dad passed away.**

6. According to Eddie, why is the farm for sale? What happened to Ben's grandparents? **According to Eddie, the farm is for sale because Ben's grandfather passed away and his grandmother went to live with some relatives.**
7. Why didn't anyone answer the phone when Nice Lady tried to arrange a visit to the farm in Ohio? **Nobody answered the phone because no one was living there at the time.**
8. What does Ben do as soon as he sees Eddie? Does Ben recognize him? **Ben greets Eddie as soon as he sees him.**
9. Did Ben's grandparents give their dogs table food like Jack's old master? Why do you think Ben likes to share his food with Jack? **Yes, Ben's grandparents gave their dogs whatever they were eating. That's probably why Ben likes to feed Jack.**
10. What did Eddie say that his family learned about giving table food to dogs? **Eddie says his family learned that dogs lived longer and healthier lives when they ate dog food.**
11. How do Melanie and Lily react when they realize Grandpa was right that dogs should eat dog food? **Melanie and Lily are very surprised to learn that Grandpa was right all along.**

12. Eddie goes back to his farm, then returns with two people. Who does he bring to Ben's grandparents' farm? **Eddie goes home, then returns with his girlfriend and his nephew.**
13. Does Ben recognize Eddie's nephew? What does he say? **Yes, Ben recognizes Eddie's nephew. He calls out Will's name and hugs him.**
14. Lily sees a silo for the first time. What is the purpose of a silo? **A silo is used to store grain.**
15. Why does Jack bark when he sees the tractor? What happened to it? **Jack barks because the tractor is smashed in on one side. It was damaged in an accident.**
16. What happened to Ben's father and mother? **Ben's father was killed in a tractor rollover. His mother died of an illness when he was very young.**
17. What message will Eddie deliver to Ben's grandmother? **Eddie will let Ben's grandmother know that she's welcome to see Ben anytime.**
18. What does Jack do when he smells something strange? Where does he finally stop? **Jack lifts his head and tries to determine where the smell is coming from. He follows the scent and finally stops at a grave marker.**

19. What is buried at the spot that Jack smelled? What does Eddie say about Jack's sense of smell? **The owner's dog is buried there. Eddie says dogs have a great sense of smell. They can smell old bones buried under the ground.**
20. Lily is very sad when she hears that Ben lost his parents and his granddad. What does Eddie do to make Lily and the rest of the family feel better? **Eddie says that Ben's family had their share of tragedies. Yet, Ben is doing fine with the Fernandez family. Also, Eddie says that family's not where you're born, it's where you're loved, and Ben is loved a lot by all of them.**
21. How does Ben feel about his new family? How does Jack feel now? **Ben seems happy with his new family. Jack is happier now, too, because he likes his new family and he doesn't have to eat dog food anymore.**
22. Who's going to the farmhouse tomorrow afternoon? Can you guess why he's going there? **Grandpa is going to the farmhouse tomorrow. Answers will vary as to why Melanie asked him to go there.**
23. What was the most important part of this chapter? Why? **Answers will vary.**

24. What important thing did Eddie teach the children? **He taught them that family's not where you're born, it's where you're loved.**
25. Describe something important you learned from someone outside of your family. **Answers will vary.**

Chapter 20 – Grandpa’s Story

Questions to Consider:

1. What does Jack notice about the way Grandpa is walking? What does Jack do? How does Grandpa react to what Jack did? Jack notices that Grandpa is moving from side to side like he might fall down. He stands very close to Grandpa, who reaches out and puts his hands on Jack’s back to steady himself. Grandpa pats Jack on the back. Then he sits and scratches Jack’s head.
2. What does Melanie have to do for her English class? Melanie has to interview someone in her family for her English class. The person she interviews can’t be in her immediate family.
3. What does Melanie ask Grandpa first? What does he tell her? *(Students should note some of the following information.)* Melanie asks Grandpa what his life was like when he was little. Grandpa says he was born in Costa Rica. His father worked on a farm, and Grandpa started helping on that farm in elementary school. Grandpa’s mother passed away when he was 11. Then he started working long hours on the farm to help take care of his family, which included three younger brothers. When Grandpa was 14, his father moved the family to New York, worked as a farmhand, and finally bought his own farm. Then, just before Grandpa turned 18,

his father passed away, and Grandpa became a father figure to his younger brothers.

4. Is Melanie surprised about Grandpa's early life? What does she say? Yes, she is surprised. Melanie says it's terrible that Grandpa had to support himself and three brothers at the age of 18.
5. Why was farming a good fit for Grandpa? What did he learn in trade school? Yes, farming was a good fit for Grandpa since he enjoyed working with his hands and being outdoors. Grandpa liked working in the fields more than he liked going to school. He didn't enjoy school in Costa Rica or in this country. He went to trade school where he learned carpentry and construction.
6. Why does Melanie ask Grandpa about the Vietnam War? Melanie asks Grandpa about the Vietnam War because her friend told her that her grandfather was involved in the War.
7. What happened to Grandpa's friend in Vietnam? Grandpa's friend died in Vietnam.
8. Who gave Grandpa a pocket watch? Why? His friend's parents gave Grandpa their son's pocket watch after he died.

9. How did Grandpa meet Grandma? They went to high school together, but Grandpa was a few years older, so they really didn't know each other. Their fathers were both farmers and bought their supplies at a local store. Grandma and Grandpa met a couple of years later at that store. Grandma looked at Grandpa and smiled, and Grandpa almost fell over a sack of grain.
10. What type of foods does the family eat? Who cooks these foods? The family is Costa Rican and Italian. They eat Spanish and Italian food.
11. What's wrong with Grandpa's eye? Grandpa's right eye is not as good as it used to be.
12. What does Grandpa say about Jack? Is he okay with Jack being in the house now? Why? Grandpa says Jack knows when he needs a little support, even though he's not a guide dog. Also, Grandpa says Jack is very smart, and he's glad that Jack is part of the family.
13. What does Melanie think about the food they should give any dogs they might have in the future? Melanie thinks that in the future they should give their puppies dog food from the start so they'll be used to it and there won't be any problems.
14. Melanie has something for Grandpa. What is it? Melanie has a cane for Grandpa.

15. Does Grandpa like what Melanie gave him? **Yes, after he tried to walk with the cane, Grandpa realized it might be helpful for him to use it.**
16. Is Grandpa more affectionate toward Jack than he was at the beginning of the story? How do you know? **Grandpa is more affectionate toward Jack now. He pets Jack and says that he can come inside his home with Melanie.**
17. Who does Jack consider to be his best buddy? **Jack considers Ben to be his best buddy.**
18. What does New Master say about Jack's relationship with Grandpa now? **New Master says he knew that Jack would win Grandpa's heart.**
19. Jack is happy that he's getting table food now. What did he discover about some foods made for dogs, such as a bone that New Master gave him? **Jack discovered that some foods made for dogs, such as the bone New Master gave him, are pretty good.**
20. What does Nice Lady say about people changing their minds about what they like? Do you think that's true? Is there a food you like now that you didn't like when you were younger? Which one? **Nice Lady says that people sometimes change their minds about what they like and dogs do also.**

Has Grandpa really changed? Let's see!

	Earlier chapters	Chapter 20
Where did Grandpa say dogs should stay? What should they eat?	Grandpa said dogs should stay outdoors and eat dog food.	Grandpa changed his mind about dogs being indoors. Also, he wasn't as strict as he was about dogs eating only dog food.
How did Grandpa treat Jack? What did he do?	Grandpa treated Jack harshly. He chased him out of the house and insisted that dogs eat only dog food.	Grandpa treated Jack nicely. He petted him and allowed him to come inside his home.
What did Grandpa say when Melanie suggested help for him in the future? (guide dog, cane)	Grandpa said he couldn't have a guide dog with him all day.	Grandpa decided he liked having Jack around. He appreciated it when Jack let him lean on him. He said he was glad Jack was part of the family.
Can you think of any other ways in which Grandpa changed?	Answers will vary.	Answers will vary.
What words would you use to describe Grandpa earlier in the book and then in chapter 20?	Answers will vary. (stubborn, insistent, harsh with Jack, etc.)	Answers will vary. (appreciative, kind, loving)

Chapter 21 – What’s Going on Here?

Questions to Consider:

1. Melanie quietly asks Lily if she’s happy the family adopted Ben. How does Lily respond? **Lily says she’s happy the family adopted Ben. Also, Ben’s the baby now. She’s in the second grade.**
2. Does Melanie look out for Lily? How can you tell? **Yes, Melanie looks out for Lily. She said they should go inside the house because Lily was outside without her jacket.**
3. What advice does New Master share with Melanie? Who used to tell this to New Master? **New Master says that Grandma used to tell him to live one day at a time. Learn from yesterday and plan for tomorrow, but live today. Live one day at a time.**
4. What does Melanie realize? Which is the most important day of all? **Melanie realizes that today is the most important day of all.**
5. What does New Master say about change? **New Master says that sometimes it’s difficult when your life changes, but new beginnings can be the start of something even better. Also, New Master says that life isn’t perfect and there will be some bumps in the road, but often change is for the best.**

6. What does Ben say to Jack after New Master talks to Melanie? Ben tells Jack he loves him. Also, he tells Jack they're brothers now and neither of them has to eat dog food.
7. Melanie wonders if Jack is a little jealous of the attention Ben gives the lamb. What does Lily tell Melanie? Lily tells Melanie that if Jack is a little jealous of all the attention Ben gives the lamb, he'll get over it. Maybe Lily knows this because she felt jealous of the attention that Ben received when he joined the family, but she got over it.
8. Whose birthday is coming soon? New Master says they'll have one more guest at the table. Who do you think that will be? Grandpa's birthday is coming soon. Answers might vary as to who the additional guest will be.
9. Melanie and Lily are each going to write songs on their own. Why does Melanie say Lily can use her new computer? What will Melanie use to write her song? Melanie would like to write with a pen like she did before she got her computer.
10. Who will be visiting the Fernandez Family Farm? When? New Master's old friend, Jimmy, will be visiting the farm soon.
11. What does Melanie say about their grumpy old Grandpa? Melanie says that their grumpy old Grandpa is really wise.

12. Melanie has a math test tomorrow. When is she going to study for it? Why does she change her mind about when she is going to study for the test? What does this indicate about Melanie? **Melanie is going to study for her math test first, then she'll read her book. She most likely changes her mind about reading first because she realizes that the test is more important. She can finish her book anytime, even after school the next day.**
13. What does Melanie like doing the old-fashioned way? Is it understandable that people sometimes like to continue doing things the way they're used to doing them? Why? **Melanie likes writing the old-fashioned way, with a pen. Perhaps people like doing things the old-fashioned way at times because it's what they're used to doing. They might be more comfortable doing things the same way rather than trying something new.**
14. What is Jack wondering about? What did he hear that caught his attention? **Jack is wondering why he heard his old master's name.**
15. According to Jack, where did Ben probably go? Why does Jack want to follow Ben? **Jack thinks Ben went to check on the little lamb again. Jack runs after Ben because he wants to be with him.**

Dynamic and Static Characters

What does the character say or do?	What do their words or actions indicate? Did the character change?
<p>Lily: "Who's a baby? Not me. Ben's the baby now. I'm in the second grade!"</p>	<p>What Lily says indicates that she matured. She doesn't need to be the baby anymore. Now she has a baby brother. Lily is a dynamic character.</p>
<p>Grandma: "Live one day at a time. Learn from yesterday, and plan for tomorrow, but live today. Live one day at a time."</p>	<p>Grandma is lovely and wise, but she's a static character. She didn't change much during the course of the story.</p>
<p>Ben: "I love you, Jack. You're my brother now and neither of us has to eat dog food."</p>	<p>Ben is a dynamic character. Since he was adopted, he grew to love and understand Jack. Also, he became much more comfortable with everyone else in his family, too.</p>
<p>Melanie: "Sometimes I wonder if Jack isn't a little jealous of all the attention Ben gives the lamb." Lily: "Don't worry. If he is, he'll get over it."</p>	<p>This also shows growth in Lily. She understands that Jack might be a little jealous of the new lamb because she felt the same way about Ben. However, she got over it. Again, Lily is a dynamic character.</p>
<p>Melanie: "I'm going to start studying for my math test. I'll get to it right after I finish reading my book.... Then again, maybe I'll study for the math test first. After that, I'll finish my book."</p>	<p>Melanie has learned to prioritize. She knows her math test should come first. She can always read her book after the test. This shows that Melanie has matured during the course of the story. Melanie is a dynamic character.</p>
<p>Melanie: "I like the computer. But sometimes I like writing with a pen."</p>	<p>Like Grandpa, Melanie likes doing things the old-fashioned way at times. However, she likes using her new computer, too, and she will use it when she chooses to do so. Again, Melanie is a dynamic character.</p>

Jack: "And where's Ben? I'll bet he went to check on that little lamb again.... WOOF! WOOF! Wait for me!"

Jack is a dynamic character. At the beginning of the story, he was obsessed with finding his old master. By the end of the story, Jack was running off to find Ben, the youngest child in the family and the one Jack felt a need to protect the most.

New Master and Nice Lady are wonderful parents, but they don't change much during the course of the story. They're both static characters.

Chapter 22 – Let's Party!

Questions to Consider:

1. Whose birthday is the family celebrating? **The family is celebrating Grandpa's birthday.**
2. Who called New Master? Where is he? **Jimmy called New Master. He's at the train station.**
3. Where is New Master going? Why? **New Master is going to the train station to pick up Jimmy and drive him back to the farmhouse.**
4. Why is Lily excited? **Lily is excited because Jack is going to see his old master again.**
5. What does Melanie do when she gets nervous? Do you have a nervous habit, too? **Melanie twirls her hair when she gets nervous.**
6. Why is Ben puzzled? **Ben is puzzled because Jack stopped playing with him.**
7. What does Jack do when he sees his old master? What does Ben do? **Jack runs toward his old master, and Ben runs after him. Jack goes right up to Jimmy. He's very excited and gives Jimmy a big greeting.**

8. Is Jack's old master glad that Jack has a new friend? Why?

Yes, Jimmy is glad Jack has a new friend. Even though he couldn't bring Jack to NY with him, Jimmy loves Jack and wants him to be happy.

9. What does Ben do when he sees Jack and his old master together? What does he say? Ben sees Jack and the older man together and grins. Ben realizes the man is Jack's old master. He says he's glad that Jimmy made it to the party after all.

10. What does Jack think about his old master returning? Who does he want to have fun with now? Thrilled that Jimmy has returned, Jack now wants to have fun with his buddy, Ben, as well as his old master.

Follow-up Activities

Vocabulary review

Complete the sentences

contraption

cringe

critter

debris

greenhouse

gruffly

nocturnal

1. A creature that is asleep during the day and active at night is considered to be nocturnal.
2. The plants in the greenhouse are doing well because they are protected from freezing.
3. Poor Jack would squirm or cringe whenever Grandpa tried to send him out to the barn.
4. Nice Lady puts foods in a metal contraption and they come out tasting delicious.
5. Melanie, Lily, Ben, and Jack didn't like it when Grandpa spoke to Jack gruffly.
6. After the fire in the cottage, there was a great deal of debris that had to be cleaned up.
7. By the end of the story, Grandpa realized that Jack was a member of the family, not a critter that should be kept out in the barn.

Follow-up Activities

Vocabulary review

Complete the sentences

pamphlet

perimeter

poultry

reprimand

sinkhole

wince

zigzag

1. Ben's grandparents mostly raised chickens on their _____ poultry _____ farm.
2. Some areas are prone to _____ sinkhole _____ formation due to differences in the soil.
3. The Fernandez family put a fence around the _____ perimeter _____ of their property to keep animals such as skunks and coyotes away.
4. When chased by a predator, an animal might _____ zigzag _____, or run from right to left and back.
5. Melanie showed her family a _____ pamphlet _____ about guide dogs that she had received in school.
6. Melanie saw Lily _____ wince _____ when she realized that Angelica was hurt.
7. Nice Lady didn't _____ reprimand _____ Jack when he spilled his dog food out of his bowl.