

Lost Dog

by Frances Rodman

He lifts his hopeful eyes at each new tread,
Dark wells of brown with half his heart in each;
He will not bark, because he is well-bred,
Only one voice can heal the sorry breach*.
He scans the faces that he does not know,
One paw uplifted, ear cocked for a sound
Outside his sight. Only he must not go
Away from here; by honor he is bound.
Now he has heard a whistle down the street;
He trembles in a sort of ecstasy*,
Dances upon his eager, padding feet,
Straining himself to hear, to feel, to see,
And rushes at a call to meet the one
Who of his tiny universe is sun.



breach — gap

ecstasy — great happiness

Word Meaning Questions



Words are the building blocks of any text, so you need to be able to understand what they all mean — even the tricky ones. Try these WORD MEANING questions on for size.

1. 'He lifts his hopeful eyes at each new tread'

The word '**hopeful**' in this line is closest in meaning to

lucky

wishful

tragic

tired

1
mar

Circle your answer.

2. '...his eager, padding feet'

What does the word '**padding**' tell you about the dog's feet? Tick **one** box.

His feet are still.

☐

His feet are moving.

☐

His feet are wet.

☐

His feet are cold.

☐

1
mar

3. 'Straining himself to hear, to feel, to see'

What does the word '**Straining**' mean in this line?

.....

1
mar

4. 'And rushes at a call to meet the one'

What does the word '**rushes**' tell you about the way the dog moves?

.....

1
mar

Poetrydactyls know the meanings of lots of different words. How many do you know?



Fact Retrieval Questions



Poems can be a bit wordy and complicated, but there are still plenty of cold hard facts to be found. Look at these FACT RETRIEVAL questions and see if you can dig out a few details.

1. Read the first line of the poem.

What causes the dog to look up?

.....

1
mar

2. While waiting, the dog

barks
twice

does not
bark

barks
once

barks
three times

Circle your answer.

1
mar

3. Look at the part of the poem that starts '**He scans the faces...**' and ends '**...by honor he is bound.**'

Write down **two** things the dog is doing while he scans people's faces.

.....

.....

2
mar

4. Which direction does the whistle come from?

.....

1
ma

5. What does the dog do when he hears the whistle?

trembles

growls

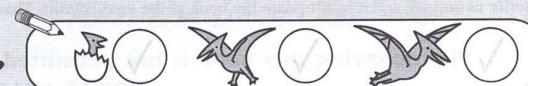
frowns

freezes

Circle your answer.

1
ma

*Poetrydactyls love fact retrieval questions more
than they love chasing chickens. How did you get on?*



2c

Summary Questions



When you're answering **SUMMARY** questions, you have to think about how different parts of the poem work together. Practise summarising by answering these questions.

1. Read the first part of the poem, from the beginning to '**...by honor he is bound.**'

This part of the poem is about

a dog that
falls down
a well

a dog that
has lost
his voice

a dog that is
waiting for
something

a dog that
has gone
blind

1
mark

Circle your answer.

2. Which of these is a main idea of the whole poem? Tick **one** box.

Dogs are unfriendly towards strangers.

☐

Dogs can hear high-pitched whistles.

☐

You should always keep your dog on a lead.

☐

Dogs are very loyal animals.

☐

1
mark

2g

Language Question



Poets can be pretty picky about the words they use in their poems, and you need to understand why they've chosen each one. Have a look at this **LANGUAGE** question.

1. '**Dances** upon his eager, padding feet'

Why do you think the writer chose to use the word '**Dances**' in this line?

.....

.....

1
mark

Poetrydactyls can answer questions on whole texts and single words in their sleep. How did you get on?



2d

Inference Questions



For **INFERENCE** questions, you need to think outside the box to work out things that might not be too obvious in the text. Have a go at these questions to test your skills.

1. 'Dark wells of brown with half his heart in each;'

Which part of the dog does this line describe?

ears

eyes

toes

tail

1
mark

Circle your answer.

2. How do you think the dog feels at the end of the poem?

reluctant

upset

tired

excited

1
mark

Circle your answer.

3. 'Who of his tiny universe is sun'

What does this line tell you about the dog's feelings for the person who calls him?

1
mark

.....

4. What evidence is there in the poem that the dog is obedient?

Give **two** examples.

.....

.....

.....

2
marks

Poetrydactyls can understand even the trickiest texts.
Can you? Tick to show how these pages went.

