

STORYLINE ONLINE PRESENTS:

"HARRY THE DIRTY DOG"

By *Gene Zion*, Illustrated by *Margaret Bloy Graham*

Watch online video of actor *Betty White*
reading this story at <http://www.storylineonline.net>



Harry is a white dog with black spots who loves everything...except baths. So one day before bath time, Harry runs away. He plays outside all day long, digging and sliding in everything from garden soil to pavement tar. By the time he returns home, Harry is so dirty he looks like a black dog with white spots. His family doesn't even recognize him!

RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Retell this story in your own words.
- Discuss and then tell or write about what you enjoyed most about this book.
- Explain why Harry buried the scrubbing brush in the backyard. Tell how Harry got so dirty.
- Discuss and then tell or write about the strange dog in the backyard.
- Explain why Harry was digging furiously in the backyard near the end of the story.
- If you have ever had a similar situation, tell about it and draw a picture to show what happened.
- Harry did not like having a bath, but it was a good thing for him. Think of something you don't like that is good for you. Discuss and then tell or write about this.
- Draw a picture of you doing what you don't like.
- Read Harry the Dirty Dog aloud to someone.
- Research "dogs" in the library.
- Write a report about "dogs".
- Discuss and then tell or write about the problem Harry had in this story. Discuss and then tell or write about how Harry solved his problem.

MORE ACTIVITIES

- Make a list of questions to ask someone who has or has had a dog.
- Interview someone who has had a pet dog. Find out as much as you can about caring for a dog. Tell or write about what you learned about “caring for dogs” from your interview.
- Draw a picture of a good environment in which a dog can live and thrive.
- Make a list of questions to ask someone who has been a dog trainer.
- Interview someone who has been a dog trainer.
- Visit a dog training class and observe what happens.
- Write a report about what you saw and learned from visiting the dog training class.

INTERNET ACTIVITIES

There are several interesting sites about “dogs” on the internet. Visit the ones listed below to learn more about “dogs.”

- www.americankennelclub.org go to Kids/Juniors down the left column
- www.animalplanet.com
- www.animaland.com
- www.dogtrainingbasics.com
- Write a review of the websites to share with other students. Ask your teacher for a place where you can display your reviews so your classmate can read them.
- Make a list of interesting facts about dogs that you learned from these websites.
- Write out the directions for teaching a dog a trick based on what you learned from the websites.
- After you have worked with a dog to learn the trick, write a review of how it went. Did the dog learn the trick? Do you need to reteach the lesson? What would you do differently the next time?
- Make a list of what you enjoyed most about these websites. Share your list with an adult.
- Make a list of facts or information that you still would like to learn. Discuss this list with an adult and make a plan of how and where you will do further research to find what you need. Continue your research until you find the answers.

ABOUT THE READER



Although best known as the crafty Sue Ann Nivens on the classic sitcom *Mary Tyler Moore* and the ditzy Rose Nylund on *The Golden Girls*, **Betty White** had been in television for a long, long time before those two shows, having had her own series, *Life with Elizabeth* in 1952. Betty has been inducted into the Television Hall of Fame and is known for her tireless efforts on behalf of animals.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gene Zion was born in 1913. He attended the New School of Social Research and the Pratt Institute. Gene Zion is best known for his creation of the rascally dog, Harry, about whom he wrote several favorite stories. Gene Zion and Margaret Bloy Graham collaborated on four books about Harry: *Harry the Dirty Dog*, *Harry by the Sea*, *Harry and the Lady Next Door*, and *No Roses for Harry*. These books are noted for their child's eye view of the world, where things that are important to the very young are depicted, and youngsters learn that things can work out when they 'sit' plants, or try to save the only 'summer' snowman. He died in 1975.

Some Other Books BY Gene Zion:

- "No Roses for Harry!"
- "Harry and the Lady Next Door"
- "Harry by the Sea"
- "All Falling Down"
- "The Summer Snowman"
- "The Sugar Mouse Cake"
- "Dear Garbage Man"
- "Really Spring"
- "The Plant Sitter"

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Margaret Bloy Graham was born in Toronto, Ontario. She graduated from the University of Toronto and worked as a draftsman artist before beginning to illustrate books in the 1940s. In 1951 she illustrated her first children's book *All Falling Down*, written by her frequent collaborator, Gene Zion. The book was a Caldecott Honor Book, and the following year she received another Caldecott Honor for *The Storm Book*, written by Charlotte Zolotow. Throughout her long career she has illustrated and written many books, and is best known for her and Gene Zion's 'Harry' series. These books relate the adventures of Harry the dog, and are noted for their entertaining stories that come alive through her illustrations which add life to the stories, and capture a child's sense of humor.

Some Books About Dogs:

- "About Town with Benny Be" by Trish Bentley
- "At the Dog Park with Sam and Lucy (Sit! Stay! Read!)" by Daisy Bix and Amelia Hansen
- "Chewy Louie" by Howie Schneider
- "City Dog" by Alison Pace
- "Dog Heaven" by Cynthia Rylant
- "Henry and Mudge" books by Cynthia Rylant
- "Hooray for Dogs" by Alexandra Day
- "Tarra & Bella: The Elephant and Dog Who Became Best Friends" by Carol Buckley
- "The Night I Followed the Dog" by Nina Laden
- "Why Do Dogs Drool? And Other Questions Kids Have About Dogs (Kids' Questions)" by Suzanne Buckingham Slade and Cary Pillo

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Originally published in 1956, *Harry the Dirty Dog* by Gene Zion, illus. by Margaret Bloy Graham, chronicles the messy adventures of a runaway canine and his transformation "from a white dog with black spots to a black dog with white spots." Despite his showboating, his family doesn't recognize him until he's scrubbed clean. Harry is a white dog with black spots who loves everything . . . except baths. So one day before bath time, Harry runs away. He plays outside all day long, digging and sliding in everything from garden soil to pavement tar. By the time he returns home, Harry is so dirty he looks like a black dog with white spots. His family doesn't even recognize him!

Related Units and Lessons. Harry, the dog, is not so fond of bathing and shoots away to the city for an adventure. Well, as the name suggests, he gets dirty from the coal engines, the dusts and the smoke. Gene Zion packs a good tale of the dog who faces rejection by his owners as they fail to recognize his changed guise. My 9yo daughter loved this book. . . . Harry the Dirty Dog by Gene Zion. Cute story about a playful puppy who doesn't want a bath, but in the end is happy to be squeaky clean. My 9yo daughter loved this book.more.