



A STUDY GUIDE FOR
BaILEY'S STORY

A DOG'S PURPOSE PUPPY TALE

W. Bruce Cameron

STUDY GUIDE WRITTEN BY
JUDITH ROBBEN M.A. Ed.





CHAPTER ONE

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

littermates
menacing
siblings
moist
wiry
jealously
romped
burrowed
succulent
clambering
eagerly
trotted

1. **(RF.4.4 CONTEXT CLUES)** What does the author, W. Bruce Cameron, mean by, “Longing seized me.” pg. 13? What context clues help explain this?
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What detail tells you that Bailey can sense the man is not very concerned about the mother whose puppies were taken?
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** How can you tell that Bailey is sensitive to the feelings of other dogs? State a detail from the text to support your answer.
4. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Explain what W. Bruce Cameron means by, “Even the air smelled full of possibilities.” Use details from pg. 16 as examples.
5. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS AND W.4.3.C)** Explain how Bailey escaped the cage using time order words (first, second, third...).
6. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What qualities was Bailey looking for in a person?
7. **(W.4.7 RESEARCH)** Three different dog breeds were mentioned in Chapter One. Research to find out what each breed looks like and what adjectives would explain each breed. Then draw a picture of each breed.

CHAPTER TWO

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

gingerly
steady
vanished
stupendous
curiously
burrowed

1. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think Bailey can smell so many things from a distance?
2. **(RL.4.1 DETAILS)** Make an inference about how Bailey feels in the hot car. Be sure to cite details to support your inference.
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why is Ethan a human that the boy has never seen before? Give one detail from the text.
4. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** When the puppy speaks about the boy he says, “There could not be anything better.” pg. 27. Why is the boy “better than anything” to the puppy? Cite three details in your answer.



CHAPTER THREE

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

dangled
triumphantly
snarling
bizarre
bewildering
adoration

1. **(L.4.5 FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE)** What does the author mean by, “drinking in his scent”?
2. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** What game do you think the boy and the dog were playing with the cloth? State a detail to support your inference.
3. **(RI.4.4 DETAILS)** What is the strange smell in Ethan’s house? Cite a detail to support your answer.
4. **(L.4.5 FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE)** What does the author mean by, “a snotty cat”?
5. **(RF.4.4 CONTEXT CLUES)** What is the “big bowl of water” mentioned in the text? What clue words tell you what it is?

CHAPTER FOUR

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

oblige
various



1. **(L.4.5 FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE)** What figurative language is “Vroom, Vroom?” What noise does it represent?
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What job did Bailey do for Ethan that Mom was not supposed to discover?
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What are two reasons Bailey loves it when Chelsea comes outside to play?
4. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why do things change for Bailey in Chapter 4?
5. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** What was the loud truck of voices? What clue tells you?
6. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think Bailey made a mess in the garage? Support your answer with a detail from the text.



CHAPTER FIVE

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

sternly
crossly
astounded
scowling
glum
bewildering
gestured

1. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why was Bailey confused when Mom and Ethan were very angry with him? Cite a detail to support inference.
2. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think Ethan decided to sleep in the doghouse with Bailey instead of taking Bailey to his bed? Support your answer with a detail from the text.



CHAPTER SIX

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

restlessly
smoldered
charred
trot
suspicion

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Name three things that damp air will pick up in scents.
2. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why did it get harder and harder for Bailey to get inside the doghouse as the months went by? Cite a detail to support your answer.
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What is Bailey's most important job?
4. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Who is the new character (friend) in Chapter 6 and what game does he like to play?
5. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What is causing Bailey to sense danger? Be sure to use a text detail in your answer.
6. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** What mistake do you think Bailey makes at the end of the chapter? Why is this a mistake? Find a detail in Chapter Six to support your answer.



CHAPTER seven

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

stale
scowled
flare of rage
beckoned
adventurous
tentatively

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What details tell you that Todd and his sister are not watched carefully by a parent?
2. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why was being a “bad dog” somehow good in this chapter?
3. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** “I also realized that I had trouble arranging myself on the boy’s bed.” pg. 70. Why does Bailey think this? Explain. Use a text detail to support your inference.
4. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What time of year is it when the author says, “Life had finally got back to normal”? State a detail as evidence for your answer.

CHAPTER EIGHT

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

retreated
stern
pulp
plume

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Name three reasons why Bailey loves the farm.
2. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think that Bailey believes ducks and cats are useless? Cite two details as evidence for your answer.
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What are two methods that Ethan and his Mom used to get rid of the skunk smell?
4. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What is the second species that Bailey rolls in?
5. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Explain how Bailey gets the nickname, “doodle dog.”





CHAPTER NINE

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

eagerly
lurched
vanishing
thrashing
murky
daft
sigh
bitter

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What clue sentence tells you that Bailey does not understand that Ethan can swim?
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What clue sentence tells you that the water must be a pond and not a pool?
3. **(W.4.3.C SUMMARIZE WITH TRANSITION WORDS)** Explain the game, "Rescue Me." Use transition words to explain the steps in the game.
4. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What detail gives the reader an indication that Bailey is bigger now?



CHAPTER TEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

nuisance
cupboard
doughy
daintily

1. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** "I got busy cleaning them up." What does this really mean for Bailey? Cite a detail as evidence for your inference.
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why was Bailey angry with Smokey?
3. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think the neighborhood kids never knock on Todd's door? Use at least one detail as evidence for your inference.
4. **(L.4.5 FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE)** What is the metaphor that author W. Bruce Cameron uses to describe "surge of rage?"
5. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What did Bailey smell in his backyard at the end of the chapter?
6. **(RL.4.3 CHARACTER ANALYSIS)** What kind of character is Todd and how do his actions explain his role in the story? Use at least one of Todd's actions as a detail to support your answer.



CHAPTER ELEVEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

spiraled
 alertly
 pricked
 steadily
 gingerly
 aerodynamic
 gesturing
 sympathy
 dismay

1. **(W.4.7 RESEARCH & RI.4.3 TEXT TO WORLD)** Research to find the date when the first man landed on the moon, as described by Ethan. What are the men's names and what message did they give the world?
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Explain what the flip looks like. Cite details from the text that give the reader a few clues what it might look like.
3. **(W.4.2.A)** Using the details in question 2, draw a picture of what you think the flip looks like.
4. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What food was catching Bailey's nose and where was this food hidden?
5. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why did Bailey not like the flip and find it embarrassing?
6. **(RL.4.5 FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE)** What simile does author W. Bruce Cameron use to compare the flip?

CHAPTER TWELVE

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

navigate
 solemnly
 succulent

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What is the name of the man who lives next to the farm?
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** How do you know that Mom is worried about leaving Ethan? List two details to support your answer.
3. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** How can you tell that Ethan is scared during the night? List two details to support your answer.
4. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think Ethan and Bailey would start to walk to Hannah's house, but then turn around and walk home?
5. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What spooked Flare and made him run away? Use details from the text.
6. **(PREDICTION)** What do you think Ethan will do now that Flare is gone?



CHAPTER THIRTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

gnarly
anxiety
bog

1. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** What was Ethan doing with the pine needles and sticks? Use a detail in your answer.
2. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Do you think Ethan and Bailey are just walking in circles or do you think they are headed towards home? Write a detail to show evidence for your answer.
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Name three clues that prove Ethan is losing his strength.
4. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What did Bailey realize in Chapter 13 about his purpose? Has his purpose changed? Explain using a detail from the text.
5. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS & RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** What was the new smell that Bailey picked up that he had not smelled in days? What can you infer about this smell? Give a reason to support your inference.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

wearily
innocent
startling
galloped
lurched
humiliation

1. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Where do you think Grandpa and Bailey stopped for food on the way home? What detail helps with your inference?
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why is Todd angry with the results of the go-kart race and think the race was unfair? Be sure to use a detail from the text in your answer.
3. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think Todd threw a rock at Ethan's window? Be sure to use a detail from the text in your answer.





CHAPTER FIFTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

nuzzled
nudge

1. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why did Bailey find the football game both confusing and exciting? Cite evidence from the text to explain.
2. **(W.4.3 TIME ORDER/NARRATIVE)** Explain the game “This Ball is Mine” in at least 4 or 5 sentences. Be sure to include time order transition words in your sentences.
3. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** How old do you think Ethan is in Chapter 15? Cite details that help you make this inference.



CHAPTER SIXTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

scouts (football)
anxious
hindquarters
hesitated
bitter

1. **(RI.4.2 SUMMARIZE)** Summarize the conversation between Todd and Hannah.
2. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Do you think Todd's words are true? Explain using a text detail to support your answer.
3. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** What do you think of the piece of meat left in Bailey's yard? Should Bailey eat it? Cite two details to support your answer.



CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

timid
gingerly
trudged



1. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think the rules for Bailey are different for tearing up paper during Christmas time? Use a detail to support your inference.
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Name two reasons why Bailey does not like Felix.
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS AND INFERENCE RL4.1)** Name two different emotions that Bailey is able to sense from the characters and the adjectives/adverbs used to describe these emotions.
4. **(W.4.2.B QUOTATIONS)** Quote the author, W. Bruce Cameron, to explain how Bailey escapes the yard.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

discarded
fury
charred
rigid

1. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Bailey bites Todd's foot. This is not Bailey's normal behavior. Next, Bailey says, "Good dogs didn't bite." Why do you think Bailey bites down very hard on Todd's foot? Give at least two details to support your answer.
2. **(L.4.5 FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE)** What simile is used by the author, W. Bruce Cameron, to explain the sound of the flames?
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS AND W4.3 SUMMARIZE)** How did Ethan break his window to allow for an escape? (This is a multi-step explanation. Be sure to use transition words in your answer and details from the text.)



CHAPTER NINETEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

astonishment
mournful
reassured
arson
guiltily
confessed

1. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** What can you infer about the type of vehicles that arrived? Be sure to use details from the text to support your inference.
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why was Bailey not reassured when Laura says, "Hush, Bailey. It'll be okay." Use a detail to support your answer.
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What is the evidence that is left behind in Ethan's yard to help solve the crime? Use two different details in your answer.
4. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why did the man snip off some of Bailey's fur and put it in a plastic bag?
5. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** How does Bailey sense the worried feelings of Mom? Use details to support your answer.

CHAPTER TWENTY

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

pricked
bewilderment
quivering
thrashing
awkwardly
sternly
despair
coaxing

1. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think Bailey doesn't feel very hungry lately? Use a detail to support your inference.
2. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Why did Bailey decide to start carrying the flip in his mouth at the apartment? Provide a detail from the text with your answer.
3. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** What clues tell Bailey that everything still wasn't right with Ethan? Name at least three clues.
4. **(RI.4.1 DETAILS)** Cite three reasons why Ethan says, "My whole life's dream is gone." pg. 190.
5. **(RL.4.1 INFERENCE)** Why do you think Ethan does not want Hannah to know he has arrived at the farm? Use a detail to support your answer.

