

# Dedicated Animals

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## 1. Question & Research Task

When you begin reading the autobiographical book, *My Life in Dog Years* by Gary Paulsen, you will learn that Mr. Paulsen tells a story about his dependence on dogs to help him cope with loneliness and other difficult times in his life.

Many people in our world today depend on dogs or other animals to help them in life. In this research lesson, you will read and learn about different service animals to answer the essential question.

In this Slam Dunk, you will conduct brief, focused research to respond to the inquiry question:

Aside from being companions, how have animals served humans?



Image Source: Wikipedia Commons

## 2. Information Sources

First, everyone will need to read the article [“Tale of the Dog”](#) and write a summary in your own words. Use this [Cornell Notes Organizer](#) to make notes as you read and then write your summary in the space provided.

Next, you will choose three of these resources to complete the Student Activity on Slide 3.

- [Help Wanted: Dogs](#)
- [FBI Working Dogs: Service Dogs](#)
- [Trained Dogs Watch Over 2 Diabetics](#)
- [Police Dog](#)
- [Therapy Animal](#)
- [Working Like Dogs](#)
- [Miniature Horses, Major Hopes](#)
- [Alzheimer’s Dog Keeps Owner Safe](#)
- [Raising Hope](#)



Image Source: Wikipedia Commons



### 3. Student Activity

Think about some questions about service animals and the people they serve, such as:

- Why do some people need animals to help them?
- In what situations are animals helpful?
- What kinds of animals can be service animals?
- What unique characteristics make certain animal species well-suited for service to people?
- What are you wondering about service animals?

Use the [Cornell Notes organizer](#) to organize the ideas you gather from the information resources on previous slide.

As directed by your teacher, collaborate with classmates in small groups or share via Schoology to share and discuss what you learned about service animals before completing the Assessment Activity.



Image Source: Microsoft Images

## 4. Assessment Activity

Aside from being companions, how have animals served humans?

Create a social media post with an image to answer the inquiry question. You can draft this in Google Docs and/or create your own picture.

Be sure to include information and ideas from:

- Your article summary
- Your Student Activity research notes
- Your collaboration with classmates

Here is your [rubric](#) for this assessment.



Watch the video linked above to see how dogs can be trained to do all sorts of amazing things, including walk on a wire!

Image Source: Discovery Education



## 5. Enrichment Activities

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Image Source: Microsoft Images

Take a Virtual Field Trip  
using Discovery Education  
to see how dogs can be  
used in a variety of  
situations to help humans.

# 6. Teacher Resources

## Learning Standards Alignment

### Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy

**Reading: 1.** Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

**Writing: 7.** Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

**AASL Standards Framework for Learners** Inquire: Build new knowledge by inquiring, thinking critically, identifying problems, and developing strategies for solving problems.

Think: Learners display curiosity and initiative by:

I.A.2 Recalling prior and background knowledge as context for new meaning.

Create: Learners engage with new knowledge by following a process that includes:

I.B.1 Using evidence to investigate questions. I.B.3 Generating products that illustrate learning.

Share: Learners adapt, communicate, and exchange learning products with others in a cycle that includes:

I.C.1 Interacting with content presented by others.

Grow: Learners participate in an ongoing inquiry-based process by:

I.D.2 Engaging in sustained inquiry.

### P21 Framework: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Student Outcomes

**3. Information, Media & Technology Skills: Information Literacy:** Access information efficiently and effectively; Use information accurately and creatively for the issue or problem at hand.

**ICT Literacy:** Use technology as a tool to research, organize, evaluate and communicate information.

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## Grade 6 English Language Arts

**Objective:** Students will conduct brief, focused research in order to synthesize information on how animals can serve humans, in relation to Gary Paulsen’s *My Life in Dog Years*.

**Time Frame:** Two 45-minute class periods

### Differentiation strategies for this lesson:

- Have students use learning supports provided in BCPS Digital Content found in the [Apps Portal](#). Refer to [Digital Content Snapshot/Support pages](#) as needed.

### Notes to the teacher:

- Collaborate with your school library media specialist to plan and implement this lesson.
- The discussion on Slide 3 can be posted through Schoology.
- Provide students with login information as needed to authenticate BCPS Digital Content. Login information is available on the **BCPS Digital Content** page found via the [Apps Portal](#)