

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Integrate Two Texts

Read the short story and answer each question.



Guide Dogs for the Visually Impaired

Guide dogs are specially trained animals that help people who are blind or have severe vision loss. These dogs are not pets—they are working partners that help their handlers stay safe. From a young age, guide dogs are trained to avoid obstacles, stop at curbs, and guide their handler across streets. They must stay calm and focused even in loud or distracting environments. Labrador Retrievers and Golden Retrievers are commonly chosen for this work because they are intelligent, gentle, and easy to train. A guide dog listens to commands but is also trained to use “intelligent disobedience,” which means the dog will refuse a command if it would put the handler in danger. For example, the dog might stop even if the handler says “forward,” because a car is coming. Many guide dog programs provide the animals for free. These incredible dogs help people move through the world with more independence and confidence. These animals help people live more freely, showing that service animals come in many forms—and all of them are working to make lives better.

Other Types of Service Animals

Although guide dogs are well known, many other service animals help people with different needs. Some dogs can detect medical problems like seizures or low blood sugar, while others support people with mental health conditions like PTSD. These dogs may remind someone to take medicine, wake them from nightmares, or calm them during stressful moments. All service animals must be trained to do specific tasks that help with a disability. Unlike pets or emotional support animals, service animals are legally allowed in public places such as buses, restaurants, and airplanes. In some cases, people use miniature horses instead of dogs, especially if they are allergic or need more physical support. Miniature horses are strong, calm, and can be trained to assist with mobility. Whether it's a dog or a horse, service animals allow people to live more freely and safely. They show how powerful the bond between humans and animals can be.



Name:

Guide Dogs for the Visually Impaired & Other Types of Service Animals

1. What do both texts suggest about service animals?

- A. They improve people's independence and safety.
- B. They are mostly used in schools and zoos.
- C. They are usually family pets.
- D. They should be trained to bark when nervous.

2. What is one way the second text adds to your understanding of service animals?

- A. It talks more about the history of guide dogs.
- B. It explains the cost of training dogs.
- C. It describes other types of service animals and what they do.
- D. It lists the best toys for service animals.

3. Fill in the blank:

Miniature horses are sometimes used as service animals because they are strong, calm, and can provide _____.

4. How does the second text add to or expand the information from the first text?

5. Why is it helpful to read more than one source when learning about a topic like service animals?



Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: S

Lexile Level: 850L-1000L

Grade Level: 5th Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Informational Text / Animal Science & Social Studies

Introducing the Text

“Today we’re going to read two short nonfiction texts about service animals. One focuses on guide dogs, and the other explains other types of service animals. Our goal is to understand how reading more than one source gives us a better, fuller picture of the topic.”

Vocabulary: handler, obstacle, seizure, mobility, independence

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you already know about service animals?
 2. What types of jobs do you think animals can be trained to do?
 3. Why might people need different kinds of service animals?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does the guide dog help its handler stay safe?
 2. What are some ways other service animals assist their handlers?
 3. What makes a service animal different from a pet?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How did reading both texts give you a better understanding of service animals?
 2. Which detail was most surprising or interesting to you?
 3. How could someone decide which service animal is right for them?
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Activity Idea

Students will complete a Venn diagram comparing guide dogs and other service animals using facts from both texts. Then, they’ll write a short paragraph that explains what they learned by reading both sources together.

