Read the short story and answer each question.

Why Dogs Help People

Sasha loved dogs, especially her neighbor's big golden retriever named Max. One day, Sasha noticed Max wearing a special vest. Her neighbor explained that Max was a **service dog**—a dog trained to help people.

There are many reasons dogs help people. One reason is that some dogs help people **see**. These dogs are called **guide dogs**. They help people who are blind cross streets, walk through busy areas, and stay safe.

Another reason dogs help people is because they can make people feel **calm**. Some people feel very nervous or scared in crowds or new places. Special dogs are trained to stay close to these people and help them feel safe.

Dogs also help in **emergencies**. Some dogs work with police officers or firefighters. These dogs can find people who are lost or help search through buildings.

Sasha thought Max was just a friendly pet, but now she saw him as a hero. She gave him a big hug and said, "Thanks, Max!"

Why Dogs Help People

1. What is one reason dogs help people?

   A.   They help people stay calm.

   B.   They teach people to read.

   C.   They clean houses.

   D.   They cook meals.

2. What kind of dog helps people who cannot see?

   A.   Fire dog

   B.   Calm dog

   C.   Guide dog

   D.   Sleepy dog

3. Fill in the blank:

Max wore a special _____ because he was a service dog.

4. What are two different jobs that dogs can do to help people?

_____

_____

_____

5. How did Sasha's thinking about Max change after she learned about service dogs?

_____

_____

_____

Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: K
Lexile Level: 330L-480L
Grade Level: 2nd Grade, Beginning of the Year
Genre: Informational (Life Cycle/Science)

Introducing the Text

"Today we're going to read a nonfiction text about dogs—but not just any dogs! These dogs have jobs and special training to help people. As we read, we'll think about the author's points and the reasons they give to support them."

Vocabulary: service, guide, calm, emergencies, trained

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever seen a dog wearing a vest or uniform?
2. What do you think a "service dog" is?
3. What kinds of jobs do you think dogs might do?

During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What does the author say dogs do for people who are blind?
2. How do dogs help in emergencies?
3. Why did Sasha change her mind about Max?

After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What is the author's main point about dogs in this text?
2. What reasons does the author give to support that point?
3. Can pets help people too, or just trained service dogs? Explain.

Activity Idea

Students can draw a picture of a working dog in action—helping someone cross the street, staying close in a crowd, or working with a firefighter. Then, have students write a sentence underneath: "Dogs help people by…" to reinforce the author's point and the reasons that support it.