



Lesson Plan for Grades 2-3

This lesson plan, created by a long-time puppy raiser and retired teacher, includes two 30-minute modules for the classroom.

The objectives are to increase a student's understanding of:

- How a blind person and a guide dog work together as a team
- How a guide dog uses many different skills to safely guide its partner

Module 1: The Guide Dog Team

In this module, students will participate in a general discussion about blindness and guide dogs, listen to a book read aloud about how a guide dog team works together, and conclude with a brief Q&A session.

MATERIALS

- Pine Tree Guide Dog Users – A Trip to the Country Store Supplemental Material:

Highly recommended advanced reading for teachers and other presenters. Available for download in the Educational Corner at www.PineTreeGuideDogUsers.org

Children's Book Selection:

- Choice A - Hanni and Beth: Safe & Sound by Beth Finke

This is the story of how Beth, who is blind, travels safely around the city--to work, shopping, even to baseball games--with the help of Hanni, her specially-trained guide dog. It's a touching tale of mutual devotion and teamwork. ASPCA award.

- Choice B - Looking Out for Sarah by Glenna Lang

This is a story about the relationship between a blind woman named Sarah and her guide dog Perry as they go to their favorite grocery store, the post office and then a

nearby school. The text and illustrations in the book capture the special bond between the two. Schneider Family Book Award.

PROCEDURE

Prior to class, download and read the Supplemental Material document. Begin lesson with Opening Discussion Questions like:

- What does it mean to be blind/visually impaired?
- What are things a blind person can do independently?
- What are things a blind person can't do/would need help with?
- What do you know about guide dogs?
- What can guide dogs help with?
- What are things a guide dog can't do?

Next, read the book selection aloud to the class (approximate reading time: 14 minutes). Discuss how the story fits with the student's prior understanding of blindness and guide dogs e.g. were you surprised about anything; how do the blind person and the guide dog work as a team, etc.

Module 2: Guide Dogs in Action

In this module, students review what they learned in the prior lesson, listen to a guest speaker or watch a video about the many different skills that guide dogs use in everyday situations, and gather in small groups to fill out the Skills Worksheet.

MATERIALS

- Guide Dogs in Action: A Trip to the Country Store skills poster & Handouts:

Available for download in the Educational Corner at www.PineTreeGuideDogUsers.org

- Guide Dogs in Action: A Trip to the Country Store skills Worksheet:

Available for download in the Educational Corner at www.PineTreeGuideDogUsers.org

AV for Video

- Choice A - Zenith in Action: Watching My Guide Dog Work – This video is just over seven-minutes long and features a guide dog handler describing how her guide dog uses its skills to navigate a variety of situations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRdRQ2KtLI>

- Choice B - How a Guide Dog Works - This six-minute video features a guide dog handler describing how she works with her guide dog, the commands she uses, and how her dog responds.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRJ_poyld_c

PROCEDURE

Download materials and get the Skills Poster printed for display. Start lesson with a quick review of what students did in the previous module and explain how this lesson will focus on the variety of skills that guide dogs use in everyday situations. Teachers may choose to invite a local guide dog handler to share personal experiences, or select from one of two short videos that students can watch in the classroom. Following the presentation/video, discuss how guide dogs use their skills to safely guide their partners. Then divide the students into groups of two or three and give them the Skills Worksheet. Ask them to discuss what skills they see the guide dog using in each picture and to write down their answers on the lines. Then get the whole group back together for further discussion about their responses. Finally, hand out the letter-sized version of the Skills Poster for students to take home.