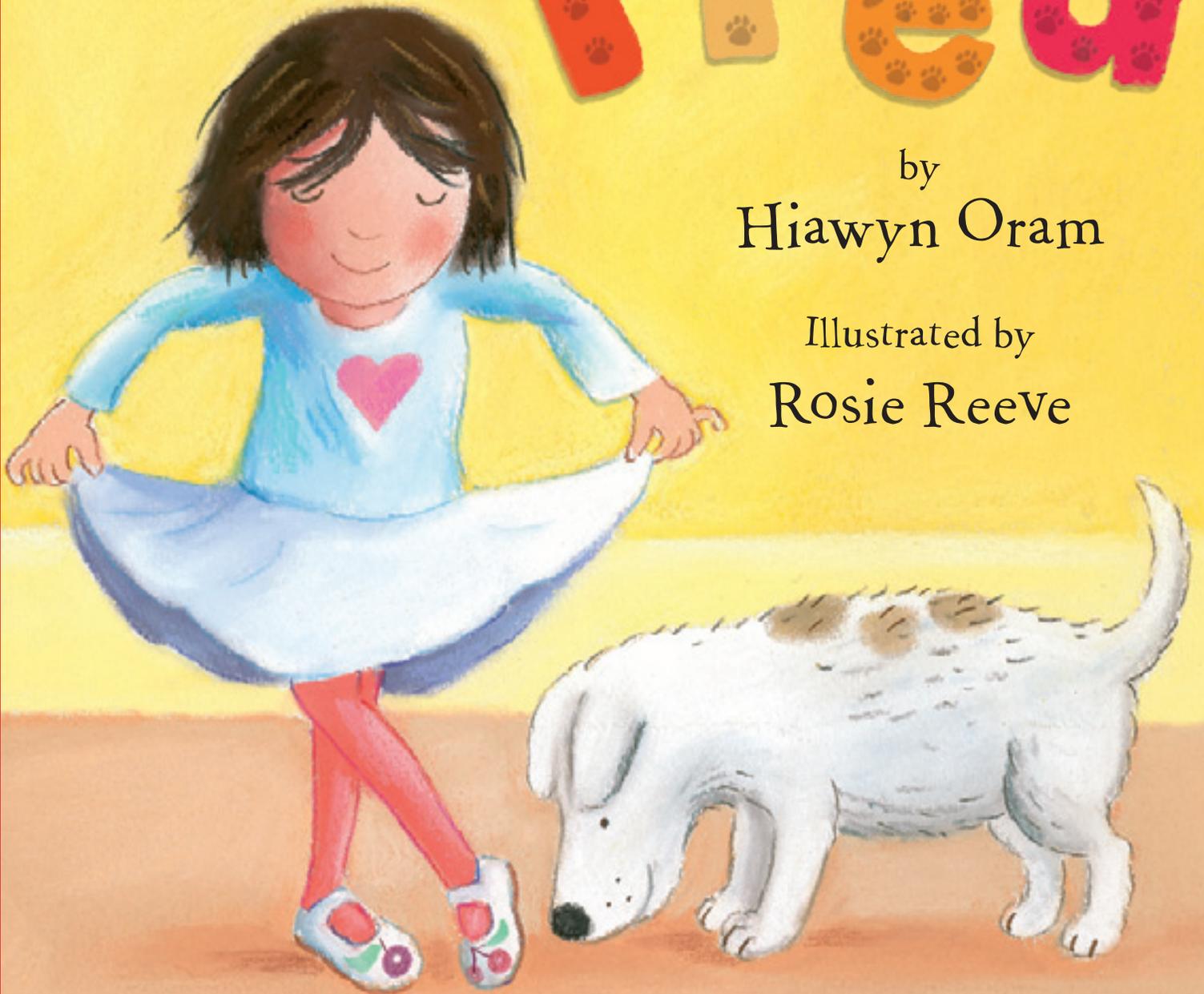


Teaching and Reading Guide

My Friend Fred

by
Hiawyn Oram

Illustrated by
Rosie Reeve



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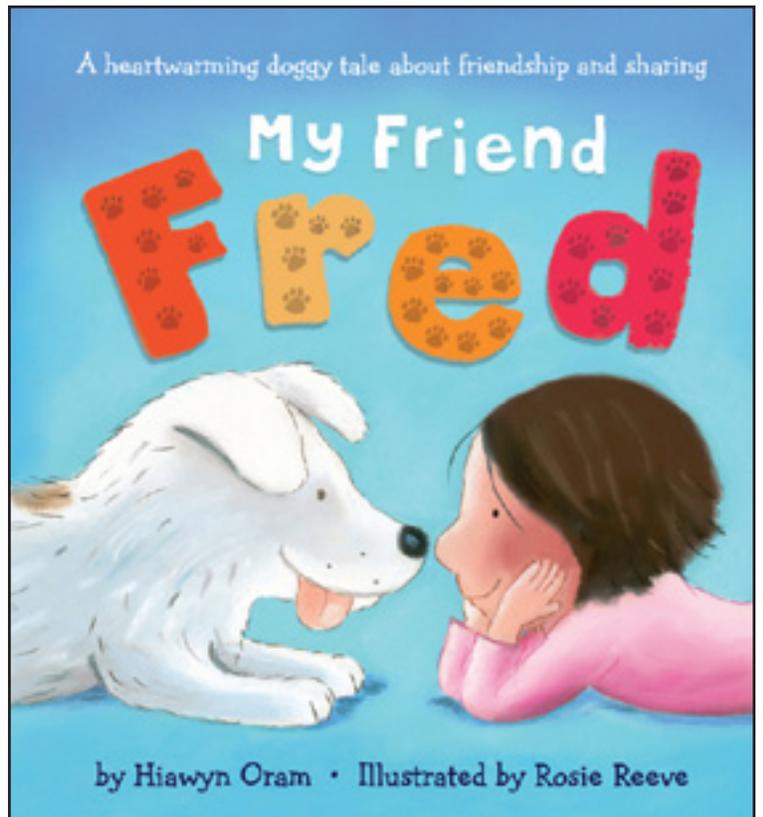


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Synopsis:

Grace loves her dog, Fred, so much that she doesn't want to share him with her sister, Sarah, and the rest of her family. But Fred is unhappy being separated from the others, and Grace soon discovers that the very best friends are the ones who share!

Content Themes:

- **Sharing:** Grace keeps the family dog all to herself until she realizes that Fred misses the rest of the family. Ask: Can you think of something that you don't like to share? Or perhaps *someone* you wouldn't like to share? Has anyone ever shared something special with you?
- **Dogs:** Dogs are loyal and loving companions. Ask: Do you own a dog? Do you know anybody who owns a dog? Can you name some different breeds of dogs? What kind of dog is your favorite?
- **Transformation:** Grace changes her mind about Fred by the end of the story. People often change their opinions about things, especially when they consider the feelings of others. Ask: Can you think of a time when you changed your mind? (This can be a small transformation or a big change.) What creatures transform into something brand-new?
- **Friendship:** Grace and Fred are best friends. They do everything together. Fred is a good friend because he sticks by Grace, and Grace is a good friend because she changes her position for Fred's happiness. Ask: Who is your best friend? How can you be a good friend? Have you ever had an animal friend?

Extension Activities

- Share a Dog
- Best Friend?
- Find Fred



Activity 1 – Share a Dog

Objective:

In *My Friend Fred*, Grace learns that friends don't keep friends all to themselves. To reinforce this lesson, each student will create a dog craft to give to a classmate.

Materials:

- Toilet paper rolls (Each student can supply one from home.)
- Construction paper of various colors
- Scissors
- Glue
- Paint and/or markers
- Googly eyes
- Other accessories (buttons, felt scraps, small bells, etc.)



Time: 40 minutes

Directions:

1. Tell the students that they'll each be making a dog to give to a classmate as a present. Emphasize that they will not be keeping the dog for themselves, so they don't become too attached to it.
2. Give each student a toilet paper roll. Ask them to paint it the color of their choice. (Purple dogs are okay, too!)
3. While they are waiting for the paint to dry, have them design the dog's head by cutting out a circle from construction paper, as well as smaller circles, ovals, and/or triangles for ears.
4. They can decorate the face in any way they'd like, although it may be helpful if you model the dog's face before they begin.
5. Cut and glue on more construction paper shapes to create the dog's front paws, belly, and tail.
6. Add embellishments, such as a collar with a bell.
7. Allow the children creative freedom with their design. Each dog should be unique.
8. When they're finished, they'll draw names from a hat and share their dogs with their classmates, just like Grace shared Fred with Sarah!



Activity 2 – Best Friend?

Objective:

Dogs are often referred to as “man’s best friend.” In this activity, students will complete a Venn diagram that compares human friends with dog friends.

Materials:

- A blank Venn diagram for each student and/or a large diagram on chart paper.
- Markers

Time: 20 minutes

Directions:

1. Ask the class to gather near your easel or wherever your chart paper is displayed. Draw a Venn diagram (two interlocking circles) on the paper. Make the circles fairly large so you can write lots of information within them.
2. Over one of the circles, write “Dog,” and over the other write “Person.” You might decorate your Venn diagrams with dog ears on the top of the dog circle and a hat atop the person circle.
3. Then ask the students to name qualities that are unique to a dog friend. Ask: What are some things that only a dog can do? How is a dog friend different from a person friend?
4. As the students share answers, write them down in the dog circle half of the diagram. Then do the same for the people circle. Anything that describes both dogs AND people belongs in the middle section of the diagram, where the two circles intersect.
5. You might also approach this task in a more open-ended way. For example, ask the students to tell you about dogs or friends and then decide, together, where the information belongs.
6. It can be fun when students debate about where a piece of information belongs. Let them grapple with whether their idea fits in the dog category, person category, or both!



Activity 3 – Find Fred

Objective:

Just as Grace hides Fred in her room, a student will hide a toy dog in the classroom. Then your class will play a seeking game. Students will give directions to the seeker using left, right, and other descriptive words to help him or her find Fred.

Materials:

- A toy dog (stuffed or plastic) about the size of an apple

Time: 30 minutes

Directions:

1. Ask your students if they've ever played hide-and-seek, and if they prefer to be the hider or seeker.
2. Introduce the class to your toy dog, Fred. Tell them that someone will hide the toy dog just like Grace hid Fred in her room.
3. The students will take turns being hiders and seekers. Pick one student to go first and hide the dog while another volunteer, the seeker, exits the room for a moment.
4. The rest of the class should see where the dog is hidden so they can direct the seeker when he or she returns to the classroom.
5. Once the dog is hiding, have volunteers direct the seeker. One might say, "Go left two steps" or "walk forward ten mini-steps." Encourage them to use directional language, especially if you've been working on right and left.
6. This is a variation of the game "Huckle Buckle Beanstalk," and you can decide if you want to use the "hot and cold" method for directing the seekers.
7. Once the seeker has located Fred, select a new hider and seeker.



More Fun Things to Do

Related Reading:

- *The Best Pet Ever* by Victoria Roberts
- *Dog Crafts* by Linda Hendry
- *How to Be a Friend: A Guide to Making Friends and Keeping Them* by Laurie Krasny Brown and Marc Brown
- *The Ice Cream King* by Steve Metzger

Bulletin Board Idea:

Assemble a “Find Our Friends” bulletin board filled with pals who are not the usual suspects. For example, the class might collect pictures of pets, stuffed animals, grandparents, or even themselves. Remind the class that friends can be found anywhere and everywhere.

Journal/Notebook Question:

Suppose you woke up one day to find that you’d become a dog while you were sleeping. How would your life be different? If you could be any animal for the day, which one would you choose?

