

HONDO & FABIAN

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by Peter McCarty

Themes: Animals, Pets, Families, Recreation

Ages: 3-5

Running Time: 6 minutes

SUMMARY

Hondo the dog and Fabian the cat get ready for a day's worth of fun. Hondo goes on an adventure with his friend Fred and Fabian stays home with the baby. After a long day of playing and mischief, both animals find themselves enjoying a quiet dinner together at home. Sated and tired they fall asleep in their favorite spots and dream of the day's adventures. Simple language and elegant illustrations will entrance and delight young children and give viewers of all ages a unique view into the life of a pet.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Have students draw or bring in pictures of their pets. If a student doesn't have a pet of his/her own, help him/her find a picture of a pet that they wish they could have. Invite students to share information about their pets, such as name, age, and a funny story about the pet. Then, have the students use the photographs to draw an illustration of the animal. Show them the photographs of the real Hondo and Fabian in the back of the book and point out how the illustrations are different and simpler than photographs. Display the students' illustrations of their pets around the classroom.

Generate a comparison of how pets and wild animals are different from each other. Use a graphic organizer such as a T-chart to record the students' comments. Guiding questions:

- What do animals need to survive? (Food, water, suitable habitat)
- How do animals that are pets get what they need?
- How are animals that live in the wild get what they need?
- Why can't many animals be pets?
- Why can't most pets survive without human care or support?

After recording students' answers on the T-chart, have students look through old magazines and cut out pictures of animals that are pets and animals that are not pets. Glue these pictures onto the appropriate sides of the chart.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Invite a veterinarian to the classroom. Arrange for him/her to talk to the students about the kind of care that pets need. If possible, arrange for a student and his/her family to bring in the family dog or cat (child-friendly of course!) to use as a subject for the veterinarian. Help students think of and ask questions to the veterinarian, for example:

- How do dogs and cats keep their teeth clean?
- What kinds of foods are good for dogs and cats? What kinds of foods are bad?
- How much exercise do dogs and cats need?
- How should you help dogs and cats take care of their babies?

If appropriate, allow the students to pet the dog or cat that has been brought into the classroom.

Find a recipe for dog biscuits on the internet. Buy the necessary ingredients and work with the students at school to follow the recipe. You may need to do the baking at home if you don't have access to an oven at school. This is a great opportunity to work with fractions. Most recipes need to be doubled or tripled to meet the needs of a classroom. Teach students about cups, tablespoons, and teaspoons. Show them how cups are divided into four separate sizes and how all of the sizes are related. Then, copy the recipe onto large chart paper. Use pictures to draw out the amount of each ingredient that will be needed for the recipe. Next, help students figure out how much would be needed if you wanted to double the recipe, or triple it. Use pictures to show equivalent fractions. You can label the fractions with their numerical values, but do not expect young students to make this conceptual leap. After making the biscuits, give them to students to take home, or, ask parents to donate other baked goods and have a Pets and People Bake sale after school

one day. The proceeds can be donated to a local animal shelter.

Get permission to keep a pet in the classroom. Good classroom pets are usually: hamsters, gerbils, turtles, tarantulas, snakes, or fish. Talk with the children about the kind of care the classroom pet will need. Make a list of needs, such as:

- Food
- Water
- A warm place to sleep
- A place to exercise (hamsters, gerbils)
- A place to hide
- Kindness and love

Make a list of responsibilities that gives each child or group of children a job each week. Set clear expectations about the care of the class pet. Remind them that a pet is a living creature, not a toy. On the day that the pet arrives, allow the students time to observe it in small groups. Some students may be fascinated, and others may be afraid. Respect the range of emotions among students and all them to get used to the pet at their own pace.

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