

# TALK ABOUT IT!

## *Book Club Discussion Questions for a Class or Girl Scout Troop*

1. At the beginning of the story, Ella tried to help Mimi by giving her dog a bath. Although her intentions were good, things didn't turn out well. Have you ever tried to do something kind that didn't turn out well? What did you do?
2. Who was your favorite character in the book? What did you like best about that character? What was the funniest part of the story? Did it make you laugh out loud?
3. At her first Girl Scout meeting, Laila felt very shy and uncomfortable since she didn't know anyone. Have you ever been in a situation like that? How did you feel? Have you ever helped a newcomer feel welcome?
4. If you had the choice between buying any kind of dog you want or adopting a dog from an animal shelter, which would you choose to do? Explain your choice.
5. Would you like to volunteer at an animal shelter like the girls in the story? If so, what would you most like to do to help?

6. In the story, the girls had to ride out a hurricane. Have you ever experienced a hurricane or powerful storm? Were you afraid? What did you do to pass the time during the storm?
7. A move forced Laila to leave something she loved behind—her dog. Have you ever had to give up something that you cared deeply about?
8. Did you learn anything about dogs while reading this story? What is the most interesting thing you learned? Would you like to do more research to learn more about dogs? Would you someday like to work with dogs? Would you prefer to be a veterinarian or a dog trainer?
9. Do you have a dog or other pet? Does your pet ever make you feel better when you're feeling sad? If your answer is yes, explain why that happens.
10. Avery thought her painting was ruined, but she turned it into something unique in the end. Has there ever been a time when you turned a mess into a masterpiece?

# BRING IT TO LIFE!

## *Book Club Activities for a Class or Girl Scout Troop*

1. Coconut was a mixed-breed dog. Use colored pencils, crayons, or markers to draw a picture of a dog that is a mix of all your favorite dog breeds. Make sure to give your special dog an interesting name.
2. In the story, the girls had fun tasting different items dipped in cheese and chocolate at their indoor campout. With an adult's help, melt cheese and chocolate in a microwave oven or a fondue pot and have your own tasting party! Make a chart to record your favorites and the items you disliked.
3. Purchase fleece fabric like the girls in the story to make blankets to donate to an animal shelter near you. Cut the fabric into a 30X30-inch square (or make it larger

for larger animals.) Use scissors to make two-inch-wide slits around the fabric. Cut the four corners out. Next, cut each two-inch slit in half and tie it in a double knot.

4. The girls met Wyatt at the animal shelter. Write a story about Wyatt's life before he came to the animal shelter.
5. Use non-toxic paint such as tempera to paint a dog's paw. Use that paw as your inspiration to paint a one-of-a-kind tree or other design using dog paws.
6. Play charades with balloons. Place notes inside balloons with the names of different animals on them. Blow up the balloons. Stand in a circle and play some music while passing the balloon from person to person. Have someone stop the music. The person holding the balloon must pop it and imitate the animal on the note. The other players must guess what animal it is.

# SCAVENGER HUNT

Let's go on a Scavenger Hunt! See if you can find the items below related to the mystery, and then write the page number where you found each one. *(Teachers and Girl Scout Leaders: You have permission to reproduce this page for your students/Girl Scouts.)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. dog shampoo
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Spanish moss
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. a green balloon
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. corn dogs
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. a canvas bag
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. a rat
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. fuzzy slippers
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. a bright blue bow
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. fondue pots
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. a yellow kayak



# SAT GLOSSARY

**bloodcurdling:** causing terror or horror

**cantankerous:** bad-tempered, argumentative, and uncooperative

**ecstatic:** feeling or expressing overwhelming happiness or joyful excitement

**remnants:** pieces of cloth or carpeting left when the greater part has been used or sold

**vagabond:** a person, usually without a permanent home, who wanders from place to place