

# OFFICER BUCKLE AND GLORIA

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Book by Peggy Rathmann, © 1995

Theme: Safety/Friendship

Grade Level: K - 2

Running Time: 11:00

### SUMMARY

Officer Buckle travels from school to school, giving children tips and advice on how to keep safe. The trouble with Officer Buckle's speeches is that they are just too boring! When Gloria, the police dog, accompanies him to school, things change! Especially when Gloria gives a solo performance.

### OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn about safety.
- Children will explore the meaning of friendship.

### BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

- Have children pretend that they need to give some safety advice to other children. Encourage them to describe the safety tips they would mention and why these tips are important.
- Help children explore how it might feel to experience some particularly enjoyable things, like playing at the playground, with-out friends to enjoy it with.

Share the book Officer Buckle and Gloria with

children. Then ask:

- How did the children feel about Officer Buckle's safety advice in the beginning of the

story?

- How did things change when Gloria became part of Officer Buckle's speeches?
- How did things change when Gloria made a presentation without Officer Buckle?
- What could Officer Buckle and Gloria do to make their presentations more fun for children?

### AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Show children a variety of safety symbols, including a skull and crossbones with an X through it to indicate poison, a crosswalk sign, a traffic light, a stop sign, a railroad crossing sign, a no smoking sign, exit signs, etc. Discuss the meanings behind these different symbols. Then provide children with manila construction paper and markers they can use to draw safety symbols of their own invention. Give each child an opportunity to share his symbol, and talk about its meaning, with the rest of the group.

Children are often unaware of the safety rules they follow each day. Try this activity to heighten their awareness. Cut out stars from construction paper. At the end of the day, give one star to each child, identifying a safety rule that he or she followed. For example, you might say, "I'm giving this star to Gregory for not tipping back on his chair. That would be dangerous." As you continue this activity, encourage children to be the ones to identify why each safety rule followed that day by classmates was an important one. Have children work in pairs to prepare a

simple presentation. At the end of the project have children consider how it felt to work in pairs as opposed to working alone.

Ask:

- How did working in pairs make your job easier?
- Was it more fun than if you had done the work alone? Why?
- What did you like most about working with a partner?

Remind children of the way Officer Buckle felt when he realized that everyone was watching Gloria and no one was listening to him. Ask:

What did the children do to make Officer Buckle feel better?

How do you think Officer Buckle felt at the end of the story?

What lesson do you think Officer Buckle learned?

OTHER VIDEOS AND FILMS ABOUT FRIENDSHIP AVAILABLE FROM WESTON WOODS INCLUDE:

- APT. 3 by Ezra Jack Keats
- THE BEAST OF MONSIEUR RACINE by Tomi Ungerer
- THE CATERPILLAR & THE POLLIWOG by Jack Kent
- HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOON by Frank Asch
- HERE COMES THE CAT! by Frank Asch & Vladimir Vagin
- MIKE MULLIGAN AND HIS STEAM SHOVEL by Virginia Lee Burton

# DOT THE FIRE DOG

## Dot the Fire Dog

by Lisa Desimini

Themes: Fire safety, animals, careers

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Running Time: 10 minutes

### SUMMARY

Dot is a Dalmatian who lives in a fire station. Sometimes she plays catch with one of her firefighter friends, while others play games, read a book, or cook spaghetti. But when the fire bell rings, Dot and her friends drop everything and get ready to fight a fire. The firefighters get dressed in their black pants, jackets, and boots. Everyone, including Dot, puts on their helmets. They jump into the big red engine and speed off to the fire. Dot and the firefighters rescue people and animals in trouble and work hard to put out the fire. This video opens the worlds of firefighters and their helpful animal companions to students with vibrant animation.

### OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn about life-on-the-job for a firefighter.
- Students will learn fire safety tips.

### BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Discuss fire fighting with the students to activate and assess their background knowledge. Guiding questions:

- What are the main jobs of a firefighter?
- What do firefighters do when they're not putting out fires?

- What kind of animal often works with firefighters?
- Does anyone know a firefighter?

Discuss fire safety with the students. List their responses on a KWL chart (what I Know, what I Want to learn, what I Learned) to return to after viewing the video. Guiding questions:

- What should you do if you hear a fire alarm (in your house/at school)?
- What kinds of things can start fires?
- number do you call on the telephone if there's a fire?
- What do you do if your clothes are on fire?

### AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Set up a "fire center" during literacy block or choice time. Prepare cards with scenarios such as: "You are sleeping in your bed and the smoke alarm goes off. What should you do?" Each card should have roles for 3-5 students to work together to act out the scenario (i.e. child in bed, brother/sister, mom, dad, pet, 911 operator, etc.).

Provide props for students to use. After acting out the scenario, each group member should answer several questions about what happened. The answers can be written or multiple choice. Provide visual reinforcement for the text for beginning readers and English Language Learners.

Take a trip to the local fire station. Arrange with the chief to tour the station and trucks, and allow time for students to ask questions. Suggested follow-up activities: thank-you notes to the firefight-

ers, essays or illustrations on a favorite part of the trip, small groups to make make fire safety posters for the classroom, students to create a fire safety checklist for their homes.

Return to the KWL chart from the Before Viewing Activity. Have students write about or illustrate one new thing they learned about fire fighting or fire safety from the video. Add these to child's assessment portfolio or display with the chart.

Talk about careers with students. Help them brainstorm a list of possible careers. Try to find resources on those careers such as books, magazines, movies, or websites. If possible, arrange for parents and community members with different careers to come in to talk to students about their jobs. Students can also find out about well-known figures in the careers that interest them and write them letters.

### Other videos about different types of jobs available from Weston Woods are:

Burt Dow: Deep-Water Man by Robert McCloskey

Doctor De Soto by William Steig

Officer Buckle and Gloria by Peggy Rathmann

The Paperboy by Dav Pilkey

So You Want to Be President? by Judith St.

George, ill. by David Small

Trashy Town by Andrea Zimmerman and David Clemesha, ill. by Dan Yaccarino

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