

# THE PAPERBOY

## THE PAPERBOY

by Dav Pilkey (Orchard)

Themes: Families, Jobs, Neighborhoods

Grade Level: K - 3

Running Time: 8 minutes

### SUMMARY

*The Paperboy* is the story of a young boy's early morning job of delivering papers to neighboring homes. Each day, the boy rises in the dark morning hours, and, along with his dog, hops on his bicycle to deliver newspapers. The beauty of this simple story is in its close inspection of the seeming simplicity of everyday life. With evocative, award-winning illustrations and simple, meaningful text, the author invites children to come in and take a close look at the charm and beauty that can be found in simple, everyday things.

### OBJECTIVES

- Children will explore the idea of responsibility
- Children will investigate different occupations
- Children will learn about the pleasure to be found in everyday activities

### BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book *The Paperboy* with children. Then ask:

- What is the boy's job?
- Who helped the boy do his job?
- How do you think the boy felt when he first woke up in the morning? How do you think he felt when his job was finished?

Talk with children about different chores they may

have. Ask: What is the hardest thing about doing your chores? What do you like most? How does it feel to have a person or a pet keep you company while you do your chores? What would happen if you failed to do your chores?

Show children a newspaper, exploring its various sections with children. Talk about the different kinds of things children can learn by reading a newspaper or having newspaper articles read to them. Ask: What would happen if people did not have newspapers? What other ways could people use to learn about the day's news? Encourage children to talk about their favorite parts of the newspaper and consider creative ways of using newspapers after they have been read.

Discuss the way the boy in the story felt about having his dog for company while doing his job. Encourage children to describe pets they may have and what they enjoy most about those pets. Ask: How do you care for your pets? Where do you keep them? How did you decide on your pets' names? If you could have any other pet, what would it be? Why?

### AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Talk with children about the quiet and stillness of the early morning hours. Describe what children might see when they look up at the sky, what sounds they might hear, what sights they might see. Encourage children to think about what they might do if they were awake during these special hours. Then supply children with paper and paint they can use to paint pictures of how they imagine these

early morning hours look.

Invite children to consider what kinds of work people might be doing during the very early morning hours, including policemen on duty, bakery workers, hospital workers, and firefighters working in firehouses. Plan to visit some of these workers and encourage children to ask questions of them regarding their early morning duties.

Help children to recall sequences of events by having them recall, in order, the events of the book. Ask: What did the boy in the story do first? Next? What did he do in the garage? What did he do once he was on his bicycle? What did the dog do as he followed the boy on his bike? What happened when the boy and dog returned home?

Have children describe how they spend an average day, from waking to bed time. Encourage children to discuss their most and least favorite parts of the day and explain their choices. Talk with children about the ways the light outdoors changes from morning to night, and how the light helps to dictate the kinds of activities we do. See if children can identify the most peaceful, exciting, and tiring parts of their day.

Other videos about jobs and pets available from Weston Woods include:

**HARRY THE DIRTY DOG** by Gene Zion, ill. by Margaret Bloy Graham

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