

Name: _____

ONLINE WORKSHEET

The Decision



Logan glanced at his alarm clock—3:00 a.m. “Great,” he muttered, “another hour without sleep. What am I going to do?”

It had been hard making friends since he’d moved to town. But Logan had finally met the guys from his neighborhood. It was cool hanging around with them after school—that is, until yesterday.

The boys were walking home when Joe stopped at a house on Park Road. A big, spotted dog was in a pen in the yard. His tail thumped the ground and he seemed to grin at his visitors.

“Hey, I think that’s Mr. Sullivan’s house—you know, the teacher in 4-B?” Joe said. “He’s always giving me a hard time. Let’s have some fun with his dog!”

Joe picked up a handful of stones. “Let’s see if you can dance, pooch!” he said, hurling the stones at the dog’s paws. Most landed inches away, making the dog scamper back and forth. Some of the larger ones hit his legs. With each strike, the dog jumped back with a yelp.

Logan looked around. The other boys were laughing and hooting. “Let me try,” yelled Sam. “Bet I can make him dance!” Grabbing a fistful of stones, he threw them faster and harder than Joe.

Whimpering, the dog ran in circles trying to escape the shower of stones. There was no place to hide.

“Come on, Logan,” said Joe. “Grab some rocks!”

Logan was angry but afraid to say anything. If he made a big deal about it, they’d think he was a baby. But he couldn’t let them torture the dog.

“Nah, I’m starving,” Logan said. “Let’s go get something to eat at my house.”

“Free food! We’re there!” shouted Brian. “Come on guys, we can teach this mutt a few new steps tomorrow.”

All afternoon, the boys joked about what they’d do to the dog the next day. Logan tried to tell them it was a dumb idea. But they only laughed at him.

Now Logan was miserable. He knew he should go to Mr. Sullivan’s room and tell him the boys’ plans. But how could he risk losing the only friends he had in this town?

Near dawn, Logan finally dozed off. At 7:00, his dog, Jet, woke him with a sloppy kiss. Logan patted the dog sadly and got dressed. He fed Jet and took him for a walk, watching his dog happily sniff all the new scents he discovered along the way. Logan gave Jet a hug and left for school.

He paused in front of the building. Sighing, he stepped inside and made his way to room 4-B.