What a Day!

by Rena Korb

Genre Comprehension Skills and Strategy
Realistic fiction
- Generalize
- Character
- Story Structure

Suggested levels for Guided Reading, DRA™, Lexile®, and Reading Recovery™ are provided in the Pearson Scott Foresman Leveling Guide.

Scott Foresman Reading Street 3.3.4

illustrated by CD Hullinger
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Vocabulary

anxiously
bay
blizzard
channel
chipped
melody
supplies
surrounded
symphony

Word count: 1,037

Note: The total word count includes words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in chapter titles, captions, labels, diagrams, charts, graphs, sidebars, and extra features are not included.
“Dana! Wake up!” Dana opened her eyes to see her mother leaning over the bed. “The animal rescue shelter called. A bad snowstorm is on the way. They expect the volunteers to bring in a lot of stray dogs today. Do you want to come to the shelter with me to help out?”

Without a word, Dana sat up and jumped out of bed.

“That’s what I thought you’d say,” laughed her mother.
Dana had recently begun volunteering at the animal rescue shelter where her mom worked as a veterinarian. The shelter was just across the bay from their house.

Dana was learning many different jobs at the shelter. She fed the dogs and cleaned their cages. She played catch with the dogs in the shelter’s backyard. Dana’s favorite job, however, was introducing people to the dogs waiting for adoption. Whenever a dog found a new home, Dana was especially pleased!

The road to the shelter crossed over the bay. Dana looked for boats in the channel, but there were none. Dana’s mom turned on the radio to listen to the news as they drove. The weather reporter announced that a blizzard might hit some parts of the state.

Dana looked at the sky. “Will we get a blizzard here?” she asked.

“We don’t usually get blizzards,” her mom said, “but it will get very cold and snowy.”
Dana forgot about the snowstorm as soon as she entered the animal shelter. “Hi, Dr. Tran,” Dana said. “Hi, Maria.” Dana worked with Dr. Tran and Maria. They had taught her a lot about dogs already.

“Hi, Dana,” Dr. Tran said. “I’m very glad to see you. We need all the help we can get today.”

Maria said, “Since it’s going to be so busy, I’m putting you in charge of taking care of the dogs. Do you think you can handle it?”

“Oh, yes!” Dana exclaimed.

Maria and Dana started down the long hall to the kennel area. As they walked, Dana heard loud wailing noises. She knew they were coming from the dogs.

“Why are the dogs crying like that?” she asked. “I’ve never heard them sound so sad.”

“Animals often sense changes in the weather,” Maria answered. “This is their way of telling us they don’t like it one bit!”
When the dogs saw Dana they became quiet. Many of them raced to the front of their cages to greet her. Stumpy led the pack. He had lost his front leg in a fight, but he ran just as quickly as the other dogs. Butterfly stuck her nose through the bars. Her pink tongue darted out of her mouth to lick Dana’s hand. *It is nice to be surrounded by so many friends,* Dana thought.

Dana stepped into each cage. She poured fresh food and water into the bowls. Then she spent several minutes cuddling each dog.

Dana decided to spend extra time with the new puppy, Elvis. Elvis was very shy around people. Dana used a dog treat to coax him out of his corner. “You don’t have to be afraid,” she crooned. Soon Elvis came to sit on her lap. Dana knew that when Elvis left the shelter, she would miss him the most.
After Dana had finished visiting with the dogs, she went back to the office area. She wondered what else she could do to help. The door to the veterinarian’s office had swung open. Inside, Dana’s mother and Dr. Tran moved from dog to dog. Some dogs barked loudly. Others whined and whimpered. Dana stood in the doorway and stared. She had never seen so many sick dogs.

Maria gently took her arm. “I could use your help again,” she said. In the supply room, Maria turned on the stereo. The notes of a symphony filled the room.

Dana and Maria got to work putting away the supplies of dog food and treats. Dana scooped freshly chipped wood for the dogs’ play area into a wheelbarrow. Together, Maria and Dana met with people who had arrived hoping to find new pets.

The rest of the morning flew by. When it was time to go home, Dana was so tired that she couldn’t stop yawning.
Dana and her mom walked through the cold parking lot. Suddenly Dana heard a noise and noticed movement in the snow. There was something behind the shelter’s dumpster!

“Mom, look!” Dana cried and pointed. It was a black dog with white patches, curled up into a ball. The dog was so small that Dana had trouble seeing it.

Dana’s mom carefully picked up the puppy. Then she and Dana hurried back to the shelter.

Dr. Tran looked up as the doorbell rang. It jingled in a pretty melody. Most of the time, Dana liked the sound of the doorbell. Now she was too busy to notice it.

Dana watched as her mom and Dr. Tran rushed to care for the puppy. The two veterinarians wrapped him in warm towels and rubbed him softly. The dog slowly raised his head. Then he barked.

Dr. Tran quickly examined the dog. “He’s going to be OK. Dana, you saved his life!”
Dana looked at the dog more closely. “He doesn’t look like a stray, but he’s not wearing a collar,” she said. “I bet his owners miss him.”

“Then let’s see if we can find them,” Dr. Tran said. He pulled out a small wand. “This scanner checks for an identification chip buried under the skin.” The scanner beeped loudly as it passed over the puppy’s neck.

“The chip has the animal’s special code number on it,” Dana’s mom explained. “We can use the number to find out who owns this puppy.”

Dana watched anxiously as Dr. Tran picked up the office telephone. He said, “I’m going to try the owners now.”

Dana listened as Dr. Tran explained how she and her mom had found the dog. To her surprise, he held the phone out to her.

“We want to thank you so much for finding Inky,” a woman’s voice said. “We’re going to come pick him up right now.”

What a day! Dana thought, relieved. She couldn’t wait to see what would happen next week at the shelter!
Many people who are blind depend on dogs to serve as guides. Seeing Eye dogs help their owners get around safely at home and in the world. Seeing Eye dogs lead their owners around obstacles and across streets. They stop for cars coming out of driveways, and they warn their owners about staircases! With Seeing Eye dogs, people who are blind can travel in busy cities and even ride on the subway. Seeing Eye dogs help keep their owners safe.

1. What services do animal rescue shelters provide to the community? Use a graphic organizer like the one below to help you make a list.

2. This story takes place in one day. Tell what happens at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end.

3. On page 15, the author uses the word **anxiously**. Why was that word used there?

4. Why was the stray dog’s identification chip so important to Dr. Tran? What might have happened if the dog didn’t have the chip?