Critical-Thinking Questions: After reading “Dog People,” think about the whole story to answer the questions below.

1. Why do you think this story is titled “Dog People”?

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2. What does it mean for Cassie to be on Megan’s side “no matter what”? Can you be on someone’s side and disagree with them at the same time?

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Pick Your Own Vocabulary Words

**Directions:** We’ve given you the definitions of five important words from this issue’s story “Dog People.” Look for the words as you read. Then pick out three more words that are new to you. Write their definitions, using context clues or a dictionary to help you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORD</th>
<th>PAGE NO.</th>
<th>IT MEANS . . .</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. budge</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>move</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. commotion</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>noisy, excited activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. dopey</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>foolish; not knowing much</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. hunched</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>raised up and rounded over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. vicious</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>very mean</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**My own words:**

6. 

7. 

8. 

© 2018 Scholastic Inc. Teachers may make copies of this page to distribute to their students.
Directions: The action of a story is called the plot. Most plots involve a problem. After some complications and important events, a solution is found. Fill in each block in the pyramid below to identify the problem and solution that make up the plot of “Dog People.” Use the prompts to help you.

1. Setup
Who do you meet in the beginning? Where are they?

2. The Problem
What is Cassie’s main problem? How does the problem get more complicated as the story goes on?

3. Climax
What happens that makes Cassie realize something important about the problem?

4. The Solution
What does Cassie do to solve the problem?

5. Conclusion
What happens after the problem has been solved?
Making Sense of Metaphors

**Directions:** A metaphor compares two things by saying that one thing is the other. Metaphors can help you explain complicated ideas in a few words. For example, “Ana is a cheetah in the relay races” compares Ana with a cheetah, the world’s fastest animal! Complete the chart below to see how the author of “Dog People” uses dog metaphors to show how Cassie views the other characters in the story. Then answer the question below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dog Breed</th>
<th>This type of dog . . .</th>
<th>Who does Cassie compare with this breed of dog?</th>
<th>How might this person or group be similar to the dog breed?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. golden retriever</td>
<td>is very active and playful.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. terrier</td>
<td>is easily excited and often has a high-pitched bark.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. German shepherd</td>
<td>frequently works as a guard or police dog.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. pit bull</td>
<td>has a reputation for being vicious and is sometimes trained to attack.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. sheepdog</td>
<td>has long, shaggy hair.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Explain this metaphor from the story: “Cassie guesses that she and Megan are a couple of mutts.”

______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Cassie and Megan

**Directions:** In “Dog People,” Cassie and Megan are cousins and best friends, but they have different character traits. Complete the chart below by choosing two traits from the Trait Box that describe each character at the beginning and at the end of the story (or think of other words on your own!). Then provide evidence from the text to support your choices. Think about what each character thinks, says, and does to show what she’s like.

**Trait Box**
- cheerful
- imaginative
- lonely
- loyal
- sincere
- untrusting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cassie</th>
<th>Megan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| A word that describes Cassie at the beginning of the story is _________________.
Evidence:
1.)
2.) |
| A word that describes Megan at the beginning of the story is _________________.
Evidence:
1.)
2.) |
| A word that describes Cassie at the end of the story is _________________.
Evidence:
1.)
2.) |
| A word that describes Megan at the end of the story is _________________.
Evidence:
1.)
2.) |
“Dog People’’ Quiz

Directions: Read the story “Dog People” in the September 2018 issue of Storyworks.
Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. Which word best describes Cassie?
   A. loyal
   B. afraid
   C. shy
   D. rich

2. Megan doesn’t want Cassie to sign up for soccer because Megan . . .
   A. thinks gymnastics is a better sport.
   B. doesn’t want Cassie on her soccer team.
   C. wants Cassie to spend more time with her.
   D. believes the girls who play soccer are mean.

3. Cassie compares the soccer girls to which type of dog?
   A. golden retriever
   B. German shepherd
   C. sheep dog
   D. pit bull

4. In the phrase “Bandit refuses to budge,” budge means the same as _____.
   A. bark
   B. sit
   C. move
   D. be quiet

5. You can guess that Cassie feels _____ when Jessica says that Megan spit on her.
   A. amused
   B. surprised
   C. angry
   D. bored

6. Which line from the story supports your answer to question 5?
   A. “Still, it’s sort of weird.”
   B. “Nothing makes sense at this school.”
   C. “Cassie’s eyes grow wide.”
   D. “Which is when they all start laughing.”

Constructed Response

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized response.
Make sure you support your answers with details from the story.

7. In what ways are Megan and Bandit similar?

8. Explain what Cassie means by “If we were dogs, we’d all be wagging our tails”?
**“Dog People” Quiz**

**Directions:** Read the story “Dog People” in the September 2018 issue of Storyworks.
Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. Which pair of words best describes Cassie?
   - A popular and tidy  
   - B loyal and kind  
   - C shy and moody  
   - D rich and chatty

2. In the sentence “She sees their art teacher standing by the exit, watching over the commotion,” commotion means ______.
   - A quiet talking  
   - B noisy activity  
   - C angry looks  
   - D sad sighs

3. When Jessica stops by Cassie and Megan’s lunch table to chat about books, Cassie starts to wonder if . . .
   - A Megan is wrong about Jessica being a terrible person.  
   - B Megan is wrong about Jessica being a great person.  
   - C she should sign up for gymnastics.  
   - D she should sign up for soccer.

4. Which line from the story supports your answer to question 3?
   - A “Cassie shrugs. ‘I might do soccer instead.’”  
   - B “‘Typical soccer player—thinks she’s better than everyone else.’”  
   - C “Then she’s a pretty good actor, Cassie thinks . . .”  
   - D “Nothing makes sense at this school.”

5. Which statement about Megan and Jessica is true?
   - A They both play soccer.  
   - B They live in the same neighborhood.  
   - C They both like dogs.  
   - D They always eat lunch at the same table.

6. Cassie creates a club for dog lovers because she . . .
   - A wants advice on how to help Bandit get over his fear of other dogs.  
   - B has decided to do this club instead of gymnastics or soccer.  
   - C plans to teach others her game of comparing people to dogs.  
   - D hopes Megan and Jessica will become friends.

7. You can infer that Cassie feels ______ when Megan smiles at Jessica during the first meeting of the club for dog lovers.
   - A happy  
   - B embarrassed  
   - C annoyed  
   - D jealous

8. Which line from the story supports your answer to question 7?
   - A “Still, it’s sort of weird.”  
   - B “Cassie’s eyes grow wide.”  
   - C “I was embarrassed. But I was sorry.”  
   - D “Cassie’s heart lifts up.”

**Constructed Response**

**Directions:** On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized response. Make sure you support your answers with details from the story.

9. In what ways are Megan and Bandit similar?
10. In your own words, explain why Megan and Jessica don’t get along well.
Dog People Contest

My name: ____________________________

Teacher’s name: ________________________

School name: ___________________________

School address: ___________________________

(Remember to include city, state, and ZIP code!)

School phone: ___________________________

Parent’s name and email (optional): ___________________________

See page 14 of the September 2018 issue of Storyworks for more information about this contest.

My Response

Write a letter from Megan to Cassie, in which Megan explains why she avoided other kids and thanks Cassie for helping her change.

Entries will be judged on:

⇒ a clearly stated main idea               ⇒ good organization and transitions

⇒ effective use of supporting evidence     ⇒ grammar, spelling, and punctuation

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Continue on another piece of paper if you need more room.