Harry is a white dog with black spots who loves everything...except baths. So one day before bath time, Harry runs away. He plays outside all day long, digging and sliding in everything from garden soil to pavement tar. By the time he returns home, Harry is so dirty he looks like a black dog with white spots. His family doesn't even recognize him!

Harry did not like having a bath, but it was a good thing for him. Think of something you don't like that is good for you. Discuss and then tell or write about this.

Draw a picture of you doing what you don't like.

Read Harry the Dirty Dog aloud to someone.

Research “dogs” in the library.

Write a report about “dogs”.

Discuss and then tell or write about the problem Harry had in this story. Discuss and then tell or write about how Harry solved his problem.
MORE ACTIVITIES

• Make a list of questions to ask someone who has or has had a dog.

• Interview someone who has had a pet dog. Find out as much as you can about caring for a dog. Tell or write about what you learned about “caring for dogs” from your interview.

• Draw a picture of a good environment in which a dog can live and thrive.

• Make a list of questions to ask someone who has been a dog trainer.

• Interview someone who has been a dog trainer.

• Visit a dog training class and observe what happens.

• Write a report about what you saw and learned from visiting the dog training class.

INTERNET ACTIVITIES

There are several interesting sites about “dogs” on the internet. Visit the ones listed below to learn more about “dogs.”

• www.american Kennel Club.org go to Kids/Juniors down the left column

• www.animal planet.com

• www.animal and.com

• www.dog training basics.com

• Write a review of the websites to share with other students. Ask your teacher for a place where you can display your reviews so your classmate can read them.

• Make a list of interesting facts about dogs that you learned from these websites.

• Write out the directions for teaching a dog a trick based on what you learned from the websites.

• After you have worked with a dog to learn the trick, write a review of how it went. Did the dog learn the trick? Do you need to reteach the lesson? What would you do differently the next time?

• Make a list of what you enjoyed most about these websites. Share your list with an adult.

• Make a list of facts or information that you still would like to learn. Discuss this list with an adult and make a plan of how and where you will do further research to find what you need. Continue your research until you find the answers.

ABOUT THE READER

Although best known as the crafty Sue Ann Nivens on the classic sitcom Mary Tyler Moore and the ditzy Rose Nylund on The Golden Girls, Betty White had been in television for a long, long time before those two shows, having had her own series, Life with Elizabeth in 1952. Betty has been inducted into the Television Hall of Fame and is known for her tireless efforts on behalf of animals.
Gene Zion was born in 1913. He attended the New School of Social Research and the Pratt Institute. Gene Zion is best known for his creation of the rascally dog, Harry, about whom he wrote several favorite stories. Gene Zion and Margaret Bloy Graham collaborated on four books about Harry: Harry the Dirty Dog, Harry by the Sea, Harry and the Lady Next Door, and No Roses for Harry. These books are noted for their child’s eye view of the world, where things that are important to the very young are depicted, and youngsters learn that things can work out when they ‘sit’ plants, or try to save the only ‘summer’ snowman. He died in 1975.

Some Other Books BY Gene Zion:

“No Roses for Harry!”
“Harry and the Lady Next Door”
“Harry by the Sea”
“All Falling Down”
“The Summer Snowman”
“The Sugar Mouse Cake”
“Dear Garbage Man”
“Really Spring”
“The Plant Sitter”

Margaret Bloy Graham was born in Toronto, Ontario. She graduated from the University of Toronto and worked as a draftsman artist before beginning to illustrate books in the 1940s. In 1951 she illustrated her first children’s book All Falling Down, written by her frequent collaborator, Gene Zion. The book was a Caldecott Honor Book, and the following year she received another Caldecott Honor for The Storm Book, written by Charlotte Zolotow. Throughout her long career she has illustrated and written many books, and is best known for her and Gene Zion’s ‘Harry’ series. These books relate the adventures of Harry the dog, and are noted for their entertaining stories that come alive through her illustrations which add life to the stories, and capture a child’s sense of humor.
Read by: Betty White. Suggested grade level: K - 2nd. Run time: 5 minutes. Harry is a white dog with black spots who loves everything except baths. So one day before bath time, Harry runs away. Comments / Questions. Privacy Policy. Download our free app! © 2018 SAG-AFTRA Foundation. All rights reserved. Stay Informed Sign up for our email updates. Harry the Dirty Dog is a wonderful adventure book for reading to your child or class, and it is a great book for children to learn to read. The adventure makes them want to find out what happens to Harry. Check out the Harry by the Sea! Originally I bought this book because I was a grandma to boys. They loved it! It had all the things boys like the best! Getting dirty being number one! I used it again as a teacher, with the same result, the boys loved it. The book I just bought was for a baby shower for my cousin's grandson-to-be. I'm sure he will love it, too. Search for "Harry the Dirty Dog" on Amazon.com. Photos. Add Image Add an image. In this charming classic story, Harry runs away before bath time and plays outside until he changes into a black dog with white spots. Back home again, he must use all his wits and tricks to convince his family who he really is.