

The Dog Who Belonged to No One

Host: **Daniel**

Helen's dad, Daniel, drives a bus. On rainy days, many people ride his bus. In *The Dog Who Belonged to No One*, a little girl and a small dog find each other when they look for a way to get out of the rain. (Note: This session builds on Session 3, *Not Afraid of Dogs*, which has a similar theme.)

The Dog Who Belonged to No One Written by Amy Hest, Illustrated by Amy Bates. Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2008*.

Genre: Picture book

You will need:

- Daniel character card for each child
- Skits character card
- "It's Raining, It's Pouring" activity supplies (page 10-3)

Episode: **Skits Under the Weather** (#126)

Skits hates stormy days. The thunder and lightning terrify him. Skits is a fast runner, but can he outrun the storm? (Available free at pbskids.org/martha/parentsteachers/bookclub/episodes.html or purchase from iTunes®.)

Welcome

Sing the song *M-A-R-T-H-A* (see Supporting Materials) or use another warm-up activity of your choice.

Watch the Episode

Before watching. Hold up the character card of Skits. Tell children that in today's episode of *MARTHA SPEAKS*, a big storm rolls into town and Skits is terrified. Ask children, *Why do you think Skits is so afraid of storms?*

Show the character card for Daniel and introduce him. Explain that he is Helen's dad and that his job is to drive a city bus. On this particularly stormy day, he stops the bus so Skits can ride along, dry and safe.

Suggest to children that as they watch the episode, they think about what they might say to Skits to help him feel less afraid of stormy weather.



After watching. Start a conversation about the episode by asking children questions such as,

- What was your favorite part of this episode?
- Do you think Martha was afraid of the storm? Why or why not?
- What advice would you give Skits? What could he do to feel less afraid?

Read the Book

Before you read. Show the book cover. Read aloud the title and the names of the author and illustrator. Encourage children to make predictions by asking, *How do you think this small dog is feeling? What do you think happens in this book?*

As you read. Encourage children to look at the illustrations and react to what is happening. If you come across a challenging word or phrase, use your voice, gestures, and facial expressions to help clarify the meaning. You may want to pause and discuss phrases such as “crooked ears,” “a wisp of a girl,” “the changing seasons,” or “soaked to the bone.”

You may also want to talk about the picture of the rainy town, with Lea on her bike on the left page and the dog on the right page. Have children find Lea, the dog, and Lea’s home on the outskirts of town. Children can trace the paths that Lea and the dog are traveling and predict what is going to happen.

After you read. Discuss the story with the children. You may want to ask, *What was your favorite part of the story? What did you think of the pictures? Did the dog in this story remind you of Skits? In what ways?* You may want to encourage older children to comment on whether or not they think the story takes place today or long ago.

Do a Related Activity

Choose one or both of the “It’s Raining, It’s Pouring” activities (page 10-3). Adapt the activities as needed or substitute one of your own. If you want, you can distribute the Rainy Day Fun template as a take-home activity instead.

Wrap Up

Parents and caregivers might be a great audience for a final performance of the collaborative theater piece the children have created (their own version of “Here Comes the Storm”) or their “Rainy Day Fun” poem. In addition, give each child a Daniel character card to take home.

Note: If this is your final MARTHA SPEAKS Book Club session, you may want to celebrate! Serve refreshments, display children’s art work, and invite children to perform. Create your own party or use some of the suggestions from the information sheet, *Host a MARTHA SPEAKS Viewing Party.*



It's Raining, It's Pouring

You will need:

- Rainy Day Fun activity sheet
- Markers

Option 1: Rainy Day Fun

Ask children, *What are some ways that you can have fun on a rainy day, indoors or outdoors?* Have a quick brainstorm. If you wish, sing the question, and then the ideas kids suggest, to the tune of the song, "What Shall We Do When We All Go Out?" (You can find the tune online.)

What can we do on a rainy day, rainy day, rainy day?

What can we do on a rainy day? On a rainy, rainy day?

We can (play cards, jump in puddles, watch the raindrops) on a rainy day, rainy day, rainy day.

We can (play cards) on a rainy day. On a rainy, rainy day.

Distribute the Rainy Day Fun activity sheet. Each child can write or dictate an idea of how to have fun on a rainy day in a raindrop outline. Children should also write their name in the raindrop.

You will need:

- Chart paper
- Markers

Option 2: Here Comes the Storm

Before the session, write the poem on page 10-5 on chart paper, using three colors (color A for the lines about the wind, color B for the lines about the rain, and color C for the lines about the thunder.) Feel free to modify the words. Leave space after each line to write the sound words children will provide.

Help children create and perform a sound poem with creative movement. Divide the children into three groups: wind, rain, and thunder. Ask each group to provide sounds and movements to go with the matching lines in the poem. (Kids from other groups can chime in as well!) Write the sound words after each line, and let kids choose an accompanying movement, such as twirling for the wind and drumming on the floor with fingers for thunder.

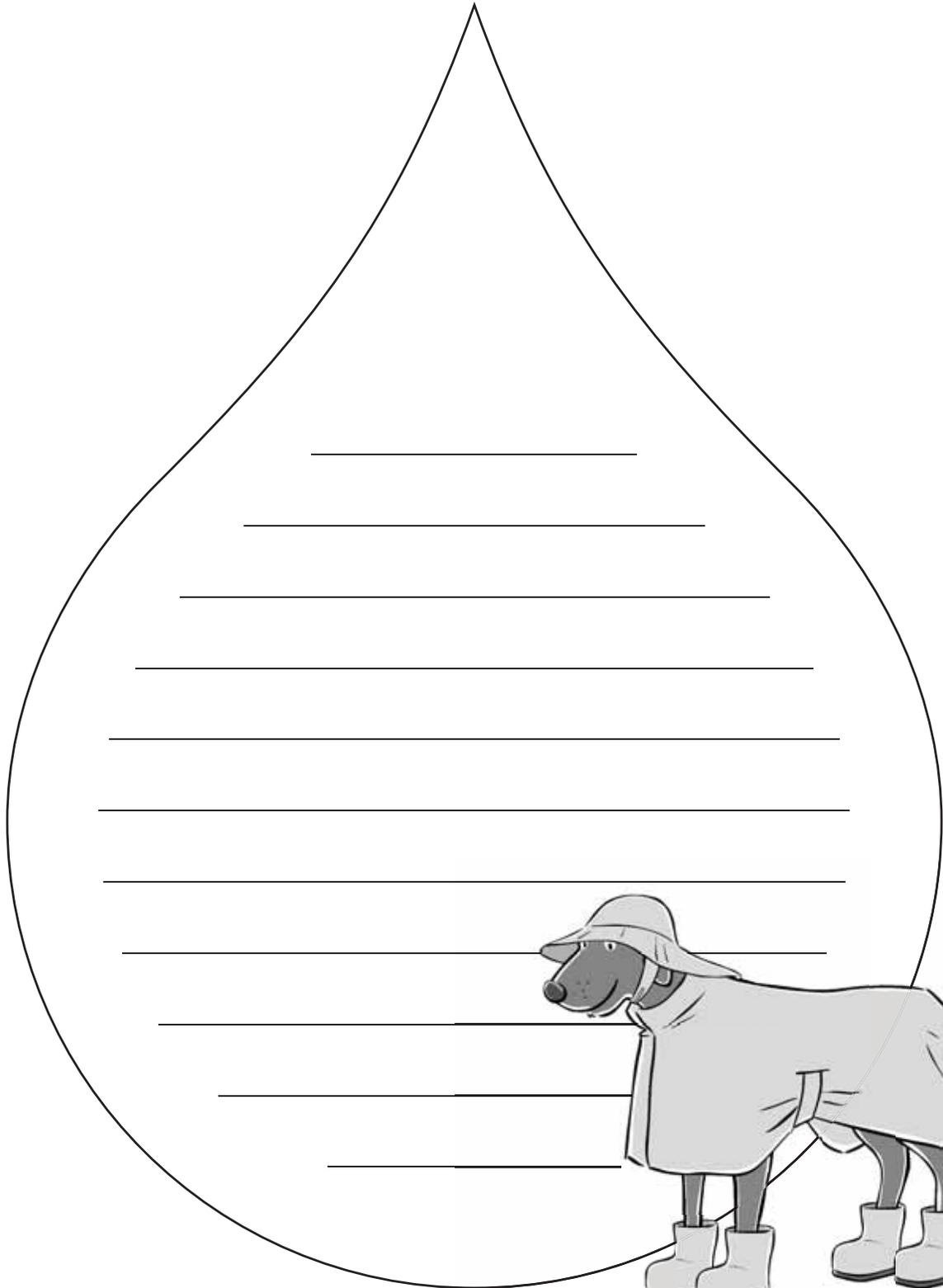
Perform the poem. Each group can read the color-coded lines, or you can be the narrator. You may want to do a final performance for parents, caregivers, and other adults who come to pick up the children at the end of the session (see Wrap Up on page 10-2).



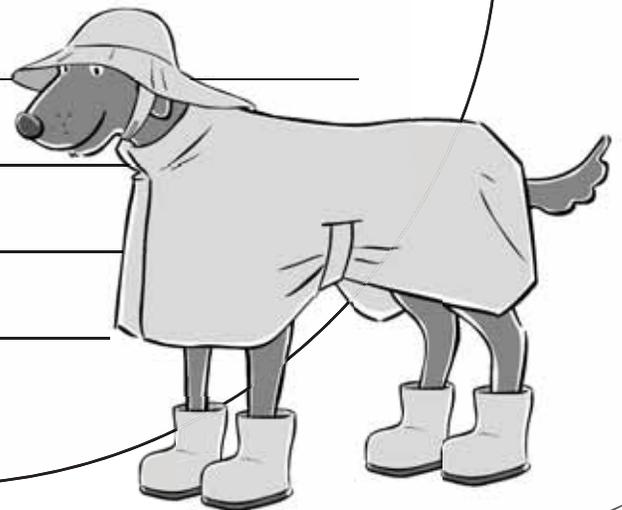
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Rainy Day Fun



A large teardrop-shaped outline containing ten horizontal lines for writing.



Here Comes the Storm

Listen to the wind: (add sound word)

Raindrops begin to fall:

I hear thunder in the distance:

The wind is blowing harder:

Sheets of rain are pelting down:

The thunder and lightning are right above us:

The wind calms down. It becomes a gentle breeze:

The rain becomes a drizzle:

Far away, there's a rumble of thunder:

