



Not Afraid of Dogs
by Susanna Pitzer. Illustrated
by Larry Day. Walker &
Company, 2006.
Genre: Picture book

You will need:

- Truman character card for each child
- “How Are You Feeling?” activity supplies (see page 3-3)

Not Afraid of Dogs

Host: **Truman**

Truman lives next door to Martha and Helen. He’s really smart and loves learning new things. Sometimes he gets scared, like when he sees a creepy crawly bug. *Not Afraid of Dogs* is about a boy who’s fearless about almost everything—except dogs. (See also Session 10, which has a similar theme).

Episode: **Martha and Truman Get Lost** (#117)

Truman asks Martha to use her nose to sniff out something he lost at Dog Head Lake—something that makes him brave. (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 Truman and introduce him (see above.) Explain to children that in this episode Martha and Truman get lost. You may want to ask, *Has anyone here ever been lost? Show me how you felt when you were lost.*

After watching. Discuss the episode using questions such as, *How did Martha and Truman feel when they realized they were lost? Use your face and body to show me how they felt when they were no longer lost.*



Read the Book

Before you read. Show the cover and read the title, author, and illustrator. Point to the picture of Daniel, the main character. You may want to ask, *What is Daniel doing in this picture? Why do you think he is doing that? Do you think that Daniel is “not afraid of dogs” or do you think that he is afraid of dogs?*

As you read. Encourage children to look at the illustrations and react to what’s happening.

After you read. Ask children to recall their favorite part of the story. Help them make personal connections by asking questions such as,

- *Why do you think Daniel always says, “I’m not afraid of dogs, I just don’t like them”?*
- *How did Daniel feel when he saw Bandit in the bathroom?*
- *Have you ever stopped being afraid of something? What helped you feel brave?*

Do a Related Activity

Choose one or both of the “How Are You Feeling?” activities on page 3-3. Adapt the activities as needed or substitute one of your own.

Wrap Up

You may want to sing and act out a doggy version of “If You’re Happy and You Know It,” or another song or activity of your choice. You can invite parents and caregivers to sing along.

- If you’re happy and you know it, wag your tail (*woof, woof!*)
- If you’re angry and you know it, show your teeth (*grrr, grrr*)
- If you’re friendly and you know it, take a bow (*pant, pant*)
- If you’re tired and you know it, go to sleep (*snore, snore*)



How Are You Feeling?

You will need:

- The Many Moods of Martha handout

Option 1: The Many Moods of Martha

Ask children to use their bodies and their faces to show how they look when they are: 1) happy and eager, 2) angry and upset, 3) tired and sleepy, 4) friendly and playful. Then distribute “The Many Moods of Martha” handout. Introduce the topic by saying, *Just like us, dogs can be happy, angry, tired, or friendly and playful. And just like us, they can show us how they are feeling through their faces and through their body language.* Have children imitate each example of Martha’s body language shown on the handout.

Extend the activity by playing Martha’s Mood Charades. Cut “The Many Moods of Martha” handout into the four moods shown. Put the pieces into a container and ask a volunteer to select one. Have the volunteer act out the mood for the other children to identify.

You will need:

- Music (optional)
- Tape or CD player (optional)

Feelings Parade

Talk with kids about different kinds of feelings. How many can they describe? You may want to have kids act out their feelings using facial expressions and body movements. Then have kids gather to march in a Feelings Parade. As you call out different feelings (happy, sad, scared, mad, confused, excited, and so on), have kids act them out while they march. You may want to play different types of music (loud, soft, slow, fast) to go along with the Feelings Parade.



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The Many Moods of Martha



happy and eager



friendly and playful



tired and sleepy



angry and upset