



Now Hiring: White House Dog

Host: **Carolina**

Carolina is Helen's cousin. Although she is only one year older, Carolina is quite sophisticated and would love to attend an important social event. In *Now Hiring: White House Dog*, the White House prepares a party for 100 important guests—just as the President's children, the “First Daughters,” place an ad looking for a First Dog. (Note: In 2008, President-Elect Obama promised his daughters that they could get a puppy to join their family.)

Now Hiring: White House Dog
by Gina Bazer and Renanah Lehner. Illustrated by Andrew Day. Walker & Company, 2009.
Genre: Picture book

Episode: **Martha in the White House (#211)**

The President is looking for a dog to live in the White House. Luckily, Martha knows the perfect dog for the job! (Available free at pbskids.org/martha/parentsteachers/bookclub/episodes.html or to purchase from iTunes®.)

You will need:

- Carolina character card for each child
- “Delightful Dogs” activity supplies (page 4-3)

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. Explain to children that the President is looking for a dog to live in the White House! You may want to ask, *Does anyone know what the White House is and who lives there?*

After watching. Encourage children to comment on the episode. You could ask questions such as, *What do you think will happen next? Do you know any different types of dogs? What do they look like?*



Read the Book

Before you read. Show the cover of the book and read aloud the title, author, and illustrator. Ask children to predict what the book might be about.

As you read. Point out interesting pictures or words as you read. If a word seems challenging or unfamiliar, help children think about its meaning in the context of the story, then use simple terms to define it, such as:

- *Prepared:* ready
- *Top-notch:* the best

After you read. Help children make personal connections to the story by asking questions such as, *Which dog in the story did you like best? What would you want your pet dog to look like or be able to do?*

Do a Related Activity

Choose one or both of the “Delightful Dogs” activities. Adapt the activities as needed or substitute one of your own.

Wrap Up

Gather the kids together to dance the *Doggy Pokey* (a variation of the *Hokey Pokey*, substituting “paw” for “hand,” and so on). Have kids “wag their tails” about as they turn around. You can also substitute a wrap-up activity of your choice. Distribute the Carolina character card.



Delightful Dogs

You will need:

- Large poster board
- Markers or crayons

Option 1: My Dream Dog

Gather children in a group on the floor or at a table around a large poster board. Ask them to imagine a dog they would like to have as a pet. Remind them about the previous discussion: *Remember what you said your dog would look like? Was it big or small? Fast or slow? Quiet or loud? Energetic or calm?* Ask them to describe their dream dogs and write their words on the poster board. Then have children draw their dream dogs on the poster. You may want to ask, *What's your dream dog's name?* Write the dog's name below each child's drawing and name.

You will need:

- Dog Shapes template
 - Markers or crayons
- OR
- Computers (with Internet access)

Option 2: Doggy Dress-Up

Before the session, use the Dog Shapes template to cut out dog shapes. Have children select a dog to "dress" for a White House dinner and use markers or crayons to add clothing and accessories. As an alternative activity, have children work in pairs or small groups to play the MARTHA SPEAKS online game, *Dog Tags*, where players can upload a picture of their pet to decorate, or select a dog to dress at pbskids.org/martha/games/dogtags/index.html.



Dog Shapes

