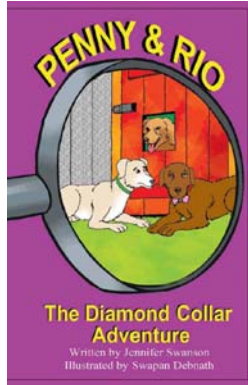


Teaching Guide for
Penny and Rio: The Diamond Collar Adventure
For 3rd – 4th Grade



Teaching Guide:

Written by author, Jennifer Swanson, M.S. Ed., this guide is targeted for grades 3-4. Teachers, media specialists, librarians and homeschoolers are encouraged to download this guide. Jennifer Swanson welcomes your comments. Please submit them via her email at pennyandrio@yahoo.com.

Penny and Rio: The Diamond Collar Adventure ISBN 9781936352319, \$7.99

Available online at www.pennyandrio.com, Amazon, Barnes & Noble
Read aloud through www.RippleReader.com

Summary:

A new adventure! In *Penny and Rio: The Diamond Collar Adventure*, the dynamic canine detectives, Penny and Rio, escape from the backyard for the first time in search of a valuable diamond collar lost by Hannah, the beautiful show dog. During their search for the misplaced treasure, they encounter Ted, the loveable miniature collie, Sarge, the belligerent and forceful German shepherd, and an obstacle of epic proportions. But just when it feels like Penny has reached the end of the adventure, the prize is ripped from her grasp. Solving this new problem will take all the ingenuity and determination these dog detectives can muster.

Themes:

Looks aren't everything
Overcoming obstacles is a part of life
If you work together, you can do anything

Reviews:

“Jennifer Swanson has done a great job in putting the element of fun in Penny & Rio, Dog Detectives! ...This is an action-packed, delightful story with colorful illustrations that will keep readers of all ages in suspense. **Highly Recommended**”

Reviewer: Cecilia Lee, Allbooks Review

”You’re going to love Penny & Rio and a cast of new friends like Sarge in a neighborhood and backyard adventure/mystery. Well-drawn characters, touches of humor, friendship, and wholesome fun make this short chapter book a perfect choice for young readers!”

— Clara Gillow Clark, author of *Secrets of Greymoor*, Candlewick Press

“These early chapter books are perfect for young readers and the bright, cheerful pictures make it an excellent read aloud book for even the youngest book lovers too. In “*The Diamond Collar Adventure*” Penny & Rio go on the adventure of a life time in search of a diamond collar lost by the beautiful show dog, Hannah. Their capers make for a fun mystery that captivated my children chapter after chapter.”

— Maureen Ruble, book reviewer for [Simply Stacie](#)

Educational Goals (Grades 3-4)

- Demonstrate how plot, character development, setting, main idea and theme of story form a cohesive and entertaining story
- Compare and Contrast characters actions and how they are affected by changes in the story
- Use the reading comprehension process skills of summarizing, predicting, visualizing, questioning, and clarifying through supplemental activities based on books read

Curriculum Suggestions:

Pre-Reading:

Have the children take a **Book Walk**.

Point out the author’s name and illustrator’s name. Read the title out loud. Take a look at the illustration on the first page. Can you tell anything about the characters there? Page through the book, looking at the illustrations. Can you guess what will happen in the story?

- *Students will use comprehension skills such as previewing, predicting, and inferring.*
- *Students will identify the cover, title page, and author of a book.*

Language Arts:

Discussion Questions:

Why is Rio trying to stay clean?

How does Penny get out of the backyard?

Why does Sarge make Penny do the obstacle course?

Who gives Penny tips on how to complete the obstacle course? How do they know this?

Why does the bird flying in cause such a problem?

Who figures out how to get the collar out of the tree?

Brainstorming: The illustrator shows dogs in all sorts of activities and positions. If you meet a new dog on the street, how can you tell if he or she is friendly? How do you know it's best to stay away? What's the best way to approach a dog you don't know? For more about interpreting dog behavior, read *How to Talk to Your Dog* by Jean Craighead George.

Writing: Have the student write about what you just discussed in the brainstorming session. How would they help a friend who is standing in front of a dog that is growling at them? What would they tell them to do?

Parts of a Story:

Discuss Plot, Characters, Setting, Time period, . How do you think the author came up with the idea for this book? Suggest a possible new adventure for Penny and Rio to go on. Now that the dogs got out of the backyard, should they go back? Or do they go on another adventure out of the yard?

Illustration: Have students draw a picture of their pet with a beautiful collar. Or have them draw a picture of show dog.

Text – to- Text Connection:

Have students read *Charlotte's Web*, by E. B. White. This Newberry award-winning book depicts a group of animals that come together to help Wilbur, the show pig. Compare and contrast this with what Penny and Rio do to help Hannah.

Supplemental Discussion: What is it like to have a pet?

What responsibilities do we have as pet owners? Many animals wind up in shelters because their owners had unrealistic expectations about what it's like to have a pet, and weren't prepared for all the work. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) has more information about pet ownership and additional lesson ideas at <http://www.aspcaeducation.org>.

Other books similar to Penny and Rio to read:

Love That Dog by Sharon Creech

BULU African Wonder Dog by Dick Houston

Tales of Amanda Pig by Jean Van Leeuwen

Fun Additions: Download the coloring pages, crossword puzzle or seek-a-words for additional enrichment

Readers Quiz:

Have students answer chapter questions provided on next page. Use them all, or just some of them as a review of what they learned.

Penny and Rio: The Diamond Collar Readers Quiz

Choose the best answer for the following questions.

Chapter 1

1. In the beginning of the book, why is Rio wearing a bow?
 - a. She found it on the ground
 - b. She just had a bath and her owner put it on her
 - c. She likes to be dirty
 - d. She doesn't like the bow, but her owner made her wear it
2. Why does Hannah have a diamond collar?
 - a. She loves to show off how rich her owner is
 - b. She loves how it sparkles
 - c. She wears it because she is a show dog
 - d. She wants to give it to Penny

Chapter 2

3. How does Penny get out of the gate?
 - a. With Rio's help
 - b. She digs a hole
 - c. She jumps over the fence
 - d. She doesn't get out
4. Why do Penny and Hannah have to see Sarge?
 - a. They want to say hi
 - b. They have to give him something
 - c. They want to go inside his house
 - d. They have to find Ted, the collie

Chapter 3

5. Who is running the obstacle course when Penny and Hannah get there?
 - a. Ted, the collie
 - b. Rio
 - c. Hobbes, the great dane
 - d. Elvis, the golden retriever
6. Why does Sarge have an obstacle course in his backyard?
 - a. He's mean
 - b. His owner is a fireman
 - c. He is a police dog

- d. His owner is a baker

Chapter 4

- 7. Why does Penny do the obstacle course?
 - a. She's curious and wants to try it
 - b. She needs to get the diamond collar back for Hannah
 - c. She thinks she can beat Ted's time
 - d. She wants to show Sarge that she can do it.
- 8. Who takes the collar from Penny?
 - a. Sarge
 - b. Rio
 - c. Ted
 - d. A bird

Chapter 5

- 9. What does Penny use to get into the tree?
 - a. A garbage can
 - b. One of Sarge's ramps
 - c. She climbs on top of Rio
 - d. A big chair
- 10. What do Penny and Rio learn from this adventure?
 - a. That looks aren't everything
 - b. That family is the most important treasure of all
 - c. That Penny likes to dig
 - d. That they don't like each other

Answers to Questions:

1. b
2. c
3. a
4. d
5. a
6. c
7. b
8. d
9. a
10. a