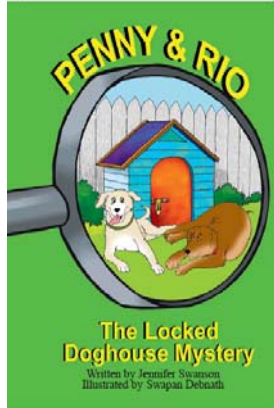


Teaching Guide for
Penny and Rio: The Locked Doghouse Mystery
For 3rd – 4th Grade



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 Locked Doghouse Mystery ISBN 9781936046102, \$7.99

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

Summary:

In *Penny and Rio: The Locked Doghouse Mystery*, the crime-fighting dog duo of Penny and Rio are on the case again! Squeaky the mouse desperately needs their help to recover his precious belongings from a locked doghouse next door. But will Hobbes, the Great Dane, who lives in the yard object? Through an inventive plan, the resourceful pair strive to solve this mystery. Can they recover Squeaky's belongings before the doghouse is destroyed? Follow along as the dynamic detectives, Penny and Rio, discover that they can do anything, as long as they work together.

Themes:

Making new friends can be wonderful
Sometimes you need to be inventive to solve a problem
Family is the most important treasure of all

Reviews:

** 2009 Mom's Choice Award Winner **

“Penny & Rio: The Locked Doghouse Mystery” is a sequel to “Penny & Rio: The Mysterious Backyard Meeting,” 2009 Mom's Choice Award winner and 2008 Royal Palm Literary Award winner. Penny and Rio are crime-fighting pair of doggy detectives, and they must solve the case of the Locked Doghouse Mystery. They are trying to help Squeaky the mouse who has belongings locked in the doghouse next door. Squeaky is afraid to get his things because Hobbes, a Great Dane, lives in the yard and may object to her passing freely through. Penny and Rio find that as usual, it takes lots of thinking and teamwork to solve problems and mysteries and help clients, but that is what they do best of all. “Penny & Rio” is colorfully illustrated and written in brief chapters that keep interest high and pages turning. “Penny & Rio” should appeal to children age 8 and up.” Midwest Book Review, November 2009

“The cute and lovable dog duo is back with another wonderful tale about their latest mystery. Every reader will enjoy discovering how Penny and Rio along with their new friends solve this new adventure. This is an easy to read and colorful illustrated book that is great for your young readers and pet lovers alike. There is truly a story for everyone. We award the Dove "Family-Approved" Seal for all ages to this charming book. November 2009

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. What do they predict is going to happen in this book? Who are the main characters? Can they guess their personalities from the picture on the front cover?

- *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:

What did Penny and Rio learn about each other?

What happens when Penny and Rio work together?

Why is the treasure in the doghouse so important to Squeaky?

How does Penny try to solve the problem?

Why does Hobbes want to help?

Brainstorming: Have student discuss situations where they needed to help someone. How did they do it? Did they get help? Why is it important that the dogs did not make fun of Squeaky's special treasure?

- *Students will identify a significant problem they are trying to solve.*
- *Students will give examples of pro-social behaviors such as helping others, being respectful of others, cooperation, consideration, and not teasing others.*

Writing: Have students write a couple of paragraphs about what they just discussed in the brainstorming session. Talk about what they wrote. How can they help others?

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. How do you think they would react in a different setting, say in a park or on a walk in the neighborhood.

Text to Text Connection:

Have students read *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*, by Robert C. O'Brien. This Newberry award-winning book talks about the importance of family and how animals help each other in times of need. Compare and contrast this with what Penny and Rio do to help Squeaky.

Art/Illustration: Have students draw a new adventure for Penny and Rio to go on – something where they have to help another animal (elephant, tiger, fish, etc...)

Other books similar to Penny and Rio to read:

Jack Russell: Dog Detective by Darryl Odgers, Sally Odgers

The Magic Tree House: The Mystery of the Enchanted Dog by Mary Pope Osborn

Case of the Dog Diaries: Secret Writings of the WOOF Society by Erik Brooks, Betsy Byars, Betsy Duffey and Laurie Myers

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 Locked Doghouse
Readers Quiz

Choose the best answer for the following questions.

Chapter 1

1. In the beginning of the book, who is searching for Penny?
 - a. Hobbes, the Great Dane
 - b. Squeaky the mouse
 - c. Buster the cat
 - d. Sheila the fish

2. What does Squeaky need help with?
 - a. Digging a new hole in the ground
 - b. Chewing a hole in the side of the fence
 - c. Running away from a big dog
 - d. Getting a treasure out of the doghouse

Chapter 2

3. What are they looking for when they dig up the yard?
 - a. A key hidden in a bone
 - b. A way into Hobbes' house
 - c. A plastic steak for Rio to chew on
 - d. A bunch of tennis balls

4. Why does Rio decide to help Penny search for the bones?
 - a. She is just being nice
 - b. Penny promised to give Rio her extra bones
 - c. Rio is bored and doesn't want to sleep any more
 - d. Hobbes decides to help and Rio doesn't want to be left out

Chapter 3

5. How does Hobbes try to get the doghouse open?
 - a. He bangs into it with his head
 - b. He digs underneath the doghouse
 - c. He tries to pull the lock off with his teeth
 - d. He tries to push it into the fence

6. How does Penny want to open the doghouse?
 - a. Using the 6-foot tree she has chewed off

- b. With the key in the bone
- c. Have Squeaky chew a hole in the doghouse
- d. She decides Rio can open it with her paws

Chapter 4

- 7. Why do they have to hurry to open the doghouse?
 - a. Hobbes is moving
 - b. Hobbes' owner is throwing the doghouse away
 - c. Hobbes doesn't like Squeaky
 - d. Hobbes is tired and wants to take a nap
- 8. How does Squeaky finally get inside the doghouse?
 - a. He chews a hole in it
 - b. He crawls under it
 - c. He climbs in through the roof
 - d. He climbs in the hole in the bottom of the doghouse

Chapter 5

- 9. What has Squeaky been hiding in the doghouse?
 - a. Cheese
 - b. His parents
 - c. His photo albums
 - d. A chest full of gold
- 10. What do Penny and Rio learn from this adventure?
 - a. That Rio loves to sleep a lot
 - 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. d
3. a
4. b
5. c
6. a
7. b
8. d
9. c
10. b