



Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School

Mark Teague

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When Ike Larue is "imprisoned" at the Igor Brotweiler Canine Academy, he tries everything to get sent home--weepy letters to his owner, even illness. In reality, Brotweiler is more like camp than prison, but still, Ike's not cut out for life w/o Mrs. Larue & his creature comforts. Finally, he runs away only to find himself back in Snort City--just in time to save Mrs. Larue's life. Teague is at the top of his fetching form in this madcap comedy where the real world of Brotweiler & the one Ike imagines are brilliantly depicted thru split-screen visuals, the former in color & the latter in b&w.

Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School Details

Date : Published September 1st 2003 by Scholastic Press (first published 2002)

ISBN : 9780439206631

Author : Mark Teague

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Animals, Dogs, Fantasy, Humor

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From Reader Review Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School for online ebook

Nancy (Colorado) says

This book was used for a reading lesson on the skills of asking questions and drawing conclusions.

Hannah Barnes says

Summary: Dear Mrs. LaRue is an epistolary book comprised of letters sent to Mrs. LaRue from her dog Ike who is currently residing at obedience school. Ike sends Mrs. LaRue daily letters about how much he dislikes his obedience school. He also explains that it was a mistake for her to send him there and that she should come and get him right away. No one expects what Ike will do when Mrs. LaRue does not come to get him.

Evaluation: This is an exceptionally good book to teach students about writing letters. It also shows students that writers letter can be fun and continuous with another party. May people do not write handwritten letters anymore, but that could change after reading about Ike's letter writing adventures.

Teaching Ideas: Student could write a letter to someone and have the teacher deliver it. Within their letter they could ask the person they are writing to write them back and this could be a continuous activity that takes place all year. Teaching students how fun it can be to write handwritten letters to a friend or relative.

Lori says

Hilarious! My third graders really enjoyed the book!

Betty Ortega says

*** Book Summary**

Ike is a puppy who has been sent to obedience school because he has behavioral issues, while in the obedience school he refuses to listen and writes letters to his owner every day. Mrs. Larue refuses to see him but writes back to him. Eventually, Ike decides to escape the school but doesn't know if he's returning to Mrs. Larue's home.

***awards**

Book of the Year Award: Children's Illustrated

*** Grade Level/ Interest level**

2nd-3rd

*** Appropriate Classroom Use**

I would use this book when learning about proper letter format to introduce students to what it should look like.

***Student Who Might Benefit From Reading**

All students

*** Small Group Use**

I would give students a letter that Ike wrote and ask them to rewrite with a different ending.

*** Whole Class Use**

I would use this book when learning about proper letter format to introduce students to what it should look like.

***Related Book In Genre**

I Wanna Iguana

***Multimedia Connections**

N/A

Katherine Austin says

1) Book summary, in your own words (3 pts)

-Ike LaRue is a little dog who has been sent to obedience school, or if you ask him, prison. He absolutely hates it and sends letter to his owner, Mrs. LaRue, pleading desperately to let him leave. He misses everything about home. Eventually, Ike escapes obedience school just in time to save his owner from a horrible accident.

2) Grade level, interest level, lexile (1 pt)

-1st-3rd grade.

3) Appropriate classroom use (subject area) (1 pt)

-Entertainment reading.

-English during letter unit.

4) Individual students who might benefit from reading (1 pt)

-Students who are learning to write letters.

-Dog lovers

5) Small group use (literaturecircles) (1 pt)

-Students could read through the book with friends and discuss together.

6) Whole class use (read aloud) (1 pt)

-Read aloud carpet reading as entertainment or introduction to letter lesson.

7) Related books in genre/subject or content area (1 pt)

-Sincerely Yours: Writing by Nancy Lowen.

8) Multimedia connections (audio book, movie) available (1 pt)

-None available.

Olivia says

I think that this book is very funny and the dog thinks that this school is very bad.

Ch_katiemcginnis says

This is a fun book in which a wire fox terrier, Ike La Rue, is sent to obedience school after ruining Mrs. La Rue's coat. Ike writes letters home detailing the horrible conditions at the school. Color pictures juxtapose reality with Ike's melodramatic descriptions.

This can be used to introduce and have children practice letter writing, as well as comparing and contrasting Ike's fiction with his reality. Primary students as well as secondary students can benefit from this book.

Cassandra Lemieux says

Summary: Mrs. LaRue sends her dog, Ike, away to an obedience school. Ike sends Mrs. LaRue letters each day explaining how "awful" it is at this school. Ike threatens to run away from the school and become a stray dog, but things don't turn out as great as he thinks.

Grade level: 3-4

Appropriate classroom use: English

Students who may benefit: Students who like bright detailed pictures and who like dogs would enjoy this humorous book.

Small group use: This would be a good book for children to pass around and read the letters Ike sends Mrs. LaRue each day. It allows a few children to practice reading and also hearing others read.

Whole class use: Although it would be better to use as in small groups, it could still be read aloud to the whole class. It is somewhat lengthy and may take up too much time.

Related books: Secret Shortcut and Baby Tamer

Multimedia connections: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaBvn...>

(NS) Laura Jackson says

Ike is a rambunctious dog that has been sent away, by his owner, to obedience school. Ike finds himself at the Igor Brotweiler Canine Academy because of his bad behavior at home. Ike wants nothing more than to go back home to his owner Mrs. LaRue. So he decides to begin writing letters to his owner describing his experiences at the obedience school. As Ike writes his letters, he stretches the truth, in describing how horrible his experiences are at the Canine Academy. But because of the wonderful illustrations, the reader knows that his days at the obedience school are not as bad as he is explaining to Mrs. LaRue. After so many days at the academy, Ike decides to try and escape. In his attempt to head home, he ends up saving his owner from getting hit by a truck. The two are reunited and go home together.

This is a great story about a dog and his owner and the "loving" relationship they have. It has a cute twist

with the dog writing the letters, who seems to have a sense of being misunderstood and mistreated. This story could be used in the classroom to help children make connections to their own lives. Many children have pets of their own, so this could be a great model text in using “connecting” as a reading strategy. This book could also be used as a mentor text in persuasive writing. Ike uses powerful language in the text that could be used to help promote persuasive writing.

Lisa Skripps says

Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School, by Mark Teague, is a playful story about Ike, a misunderstood puppy. Ike was sent to the Brotweiler Canine Academy by his owner Mrs. LaRue. Ike writes letter after letter to Mrs. LaRue explaining the horrific treatment he is receiving at the academy. However, the intricate illustrations suggest otherwise. For example, when Ike writes about being sent to solitary confinement in a cell, there is a picture of him a nice woman giving all of the dogs treats. Ike eventually breaks free from his "torture" and travels around the country, ending back up at home.

Teague does an absolutely wonderful job of creating a charismatic, interesting and lovable character in Ike. I also really liked the use of black and white images to portray the "injustices" that Ike was experiencing, in comparison to the bright and vibrant images of what exactly was going on while Ike was at the academy. Without the illustrations, children would not be able to identify exactly what was happening in the story. The illustrations are not just an enhancement, they are crucial to the understanding of this story.

Mary Train says

If you're an adult, this book is humorous and clever. If you're a kid, this book is unaccessible and confusing...and a big let-down. I know many reviewers would disagree with me, but kids don't lie!

Sarah says

Good book that showed there are two sides to every story.

haley says

This was funny! I don't think that younger kids will appreciate it as much, since there's a lot of vocabulary that they won't understand. So I recommend this for the older kids. Like, 9 or 10 years old.

Gina says

Cute little story that would be a great lesson on perspective and persuasive word choice.

Lisa Vegan says

This book could have been incredibly hilarious, and while for me it didn't quite make it to that level, I thought it was really cute and funny. The illustrations are great: in color for reality and the alternate scenes, as told by Ike the dog, are in black & white. I love the words that are part of the pictures, and especially loved the chart diagnosis on Ike's infirmary bed. Anybody who knows and loves dogs will recognize some doggy behaviors and thought processes here, even though Ike is highly anthropomorphized.
