

Dog Jog Adventure
Carol Montgomery

Performance Time = about 7 minutes

Readability = grade 2.7

Cast (3, or 2 choral groups and a narrator):

Narrator

Brother (or guys)

Sister (or girls)

Vocabulary:

adventure
adapted
jogging
route
surprise
birthday
camera
continued
yank
biscuits
slobbered
whined
obedience
unfortunately
discovered
prophetic
laughing
knots
everyone's
attention
barreled
lunged
clenched
tightened
bruised
reins
distress

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Narrator: “Dog Jog Adventure.” Adapted from a true story.

Brother: Looks like you’re going running again, Sis.

Sister: Yup. But, I want to take the dogs this time.

Brother: Not ALL THREE dogs at the same time...

Sister: Why not? I’m bigger and stronger now. And, the Danes are older.

Brother: And BIGGER and STRONGER, too!

Sister: We’ll be fine. You know Mom and Dad don’t want me jogging by myself. Do YOU want to come along?

Brother: I’ll catch up with you soon. Are you taking the same route?

Sister: Sure am.

Brother: Okay, you go on ahead and I’ll catch up with you. I have a feeling you may be in for a surprise.

Sister: Oh, are you planning a surprise party for me?

Brother: You wish! It’s not even your birthday yet.

Sister: I know. Do you want me to wait for you?

Brother: Nah. I just want to snatch a snack and the camera. I’ll be following you before you get to the red barn.

Narrator: So Sister grabbed the three dog leashes and a couple of dog biscuits. The three dogs jumped, slobbered, and whined to go outside. Sister snapped the leashes on the collars and opened the front door. Two leashes ran out first—pulled by the Great Dane brothers, Max and Mustard. Holding all three leashes, Sister raced out behind them with the old mutt, Muffin.

Sister: Come on, Muffin! It looks like Max and Mustard have a plan.

Narrator: Unfortunately for Sister, Max and Mustard DID have a plan.....adventure! The Great Dane brothers dragged Sister and Muffin down the road—fortunately in the right direction. Sister called...

Sister: Hey, guys! Remind me to take you to obedience school one at a time, okay?

Narrator: Muffin the Mutt never passed obedience school and the Great Dane brothers had never been. Great Danes are VERY large and VERY strong dogs who like to run.

Sister: Max! Mustard! Slow down! It's NOT a race.

Narrator: But, the big dogs continued to yank on their leashes, dragging Sister along. The wind sang through her bouncing hair and Sister laughed out loud.

Sister: *(laughs)* All I need is wheels and we'd be on Mr. Toad's Wild Ride.

Narrator: Sister didn't know how prophetic she was! They passed the red barn just as Max and Mustard discovered...

Sister: No! No! No!

Narrator: Stinky roadkill.

Sister: Max, Mustard, Muffin, no!

Narrator: Sister yanked on the leashes, but the dogs kept going back to the poor dead skunk. The three dogs ran circles around Sister, tangling her in the middle of three leashes with three stinky dogs. Sister sat down to climb out of the leashes.

Sister: No! No! No! Not the skunk again! Oh, you guys!

Narrator: Just then the sound of running behind her caught Sister's attention. She turned.

Sister: Hey! Put that camera down and come help me, please!

Narrator: Brother lowered the camera and ran to his younger sister laughing.

Brother: I can't wait to get that up on You Tube! That was so funny! I'm sorry I couldn't help you sooner, but you weren't hurt or in danger. You should have seen those three dogs dragging you to that dead skunk, then tying you up in knots!

Sister: *(laughing)* I guess if you put it up on You Tube I WILL see it—and so will the rest of the world. Those dogs are super strong.

Brother: I know. I couldn't believe you wanted to take all three at once.

Sister: Well, here. You take the big boys, Max and Mustard. I'll keep Muffin.

Brother: Okay, but you better take the camera then, too.

Sister: My pleasure. I owe you a video. Just holler if you need help and I'll show up with the camera, okay?

Brother: Any time. Hey, these guys really stink. I mean REALLY stink! How can you stand it?

Sister: I didn't have much of a choice, did I? The smell made me gag, but I couldn't stop them and I knew I could NOT let go!

Brother: You got that right. Who knows what would happen if you let go of the leashes? Do you want to turn back?

Sister: Nope. Now that you're here this might be kind of fun. Let's go to the end of the road at the woods and turn around.

Brother: Sounds good to me!

Narrator: The odd crew trotted down the road. The woods grew denser on both sides. When they were just about to the end of the road a loud noise in the bushes ahead grabbed everyone's attention. The dogs stopped.

Sister: What was that?

Brother: Shhhhh...stand still and be quiet. Get your camera ready.

Narrator: Sister obeyed. The dogs stopped panting. Their ears were like soldiers waiting for orders. Suddenly a large white-tailed deer barreled out of the bushes and lunged across the road full speed and into the woods on the other side.

Brother: Whoa!

Narrator: The dogs took off—all three—chasing the deer. Brother clenched the two leashes tightly and rushed off behind the Great Danes. Sister tightened her grip on the camera and chased the fat Muffin.

Brother: No! Stop, Max! Mustard, no!

Narrator: Muffin stopped quickly, but the Big Dog Brothers raced ahead as though they were playing a game of tag with the deer, dragging Brother behind. He dug his feet into the soft soil.

Brother: Stop! Stop!

Narrator: The dogs were wild with adventure and lunged forward following the deer nearly yanking Brother's arms out of the sockets. It took all the strength he had to hold on to the leashes.

Sister: Got it—all on film. One young knight and two wild ponies chasing that poor deer. Good thing you stopped, Muffin. You sure look hot!

Narrator: Sister marched forward adding clips of film as she followed the noise ahead. All at once she heard a yell.

Brother: Yaaah! Cowabunga!

Narrator: The Great Dane Brothers had leaped over a log, but Brother's toe caught when he tried. He did a belly flop into the soft leaves, with the dogs dragging him forward.

Brother: *(laughing)* I can't believe this is happening. Max! Mustard! No! Stop!

Narrator: With the deer out of sight and not hearing any more crashing in the woods the dogs suddenly decided their adventure was over. Sister appeared with Muffin panting and the camera filming.

Sister: Oh, and here is a poor knight in distress with two wild ponies. Hello, young knight! May we offer some assistance?

Brother: *(laughs)* Yes, young fair maiden. It seems these woods are not so dear to me anymore. These ponies have taken me for a jaunt in the woods, but I now find myself on my face. Would you be so kind as to hold the reins of these wild beasts so that I may find my feet again?

Sister: Indeed, kind sir! I would LOVE to help! Let me get a close up of your face for You Tube first. Smile for the camera now. *(smiles)*

Brother: How's this? *(cheesy smile)*

Sister: Great! Got it. Okay, give me the leashes of those two overheated dogs. They're making me hungry.

Brother: What do you mean they're making you hungry?

Sister: You see three dogs—tired, panting, tongues hanging low, right—Max, Mustard, and Muffin?

Brother: That's right. Plus, one bruised Brother.

Sister: You keep the bruised Brother. I'll take all three leashes. That gives me two hot dogs and a big blob of hot Mustard.

Brother: *(groans)*

Narrator: The End.

Author's Note:

My dad had a Great Dane when my sister and I visited him as children. He named her Gypsy because she was lost and the owners could not be found. Great Danes slobber, especially after drinking. That's not a huge problem, except when the dog believes it's a lap dog and you're traveling in a motor home! On that trip Gypsy was afraid of the bumps when we crossed the railroad tracks, so she would look for the nearest lap. Her front feet would be on the ground, and her hind end would be on the lap. She loved it and would sit on that lap as long as possible. I remember the best part of the trip was seeing Gypsy run along the beach of a country river. Beautiful!

Do you have a dog or animal story you could write?

Curriculum Links (Valid in 2012)–Dogs:

<http://www.discoveryeducation.com/teachers/free-lesson-plans/dogs.cfm>

Discovery Education’s Lesson Plan Library page on Dogs--for grades 6-8, but adaptable.

http://www.akc.org/public_education/lessonplans_middle.cfm

American Kennel Club’s “Middle School Lesson Plans” page with several lessons: “Deciding if Dog Ownership is Right for You” with two worksheets, “The Cost of Owning a Dog” with one worksheet, “Choosing Your Dog” with two worksheets, “Dog Parks” with two worksheets, “Breed-specific Legislation” with one worksheet, and “Careers in Dogs” with two worksheets. I looked at the last lesson plan, but it is based on the AKC booklet “Careers in Dogs,” so you’d have to order it ahead of time.

http://www.akc.org/public_education/lessonplans_elementary.cfm

American Kennel Club’s “Elementary School Lesson Plans” page (K-6) with several lessons: “Dogs in Our Community,” “Basic Care for Canines,” “Safety Around Dogs,” “Obedience, Agility, and CGC Test,” “Dog Shows and Jr. Showmanship,” “Careers in Dogs.” I looked at the first lesson plan, but it is based on a “Best Friends” DVD (12 minutes) which is available in their “Best Friends Teaching Kit.” I couldn’t find a price on the “Educational Kits,” but there are educator discounts available for teachers, librarians, and specific youth group leaders (i.e., 4-H, Scouts, YMCA/YWCA, after school programs).

http://www.akc.org/public_education/resources.cfm?page=7

American Kennel Club’s printable activity sheets for children—33 PDFs! Note: They have an art contest every year with first round of judging in May and second round of judging in November. K-2, 3-5, 6-8 grades.

http://www.akc.org/public_education/educators_youth_groups.cfm?page=2

American Kennel Club’s page with information on getting a Canine Ambassador to make a presentation for your school or group. They have a directory available with a list of “Canine Ambassadors” by state if you call or you may contact your local AKC club.

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/08/g35/dogsshow.html>

National Geographic’s lesson plan for grades 3-5 on a “Geographical Dog Show,” using geography with the study of dog breeds.

http://www.pawsibilitiesunleashed.org/home/service_dogs

“Pawsibilities Unleashed” page on Service Dogs with photos showing dogs helping people, plus a link to success stories

Great Dane Links on the next page...

Great Dane Links

http://www.statesymbolsusa.org/Pennsylvania/Dog_Great_Dane.html

State Symbols USA presents the "Pennsylvania State Dog: Great Dane" page with 3 photos.

<http://animal.discovery.com/videos/dogs-101-great-dane.html>

Animal Planet's "Dog's 101: Great Dane" excellent video: historic, information, and action clips. 5:45

<http://animal.discovery.com/breed-selector/dog-breeds/working/great-dane.html>

Animal Discovery dog breed page with a "Great Dane Guide." One large photo, lots of basic information and links to more. (Small print.)

<http://bighoneydog.com/>

Honey, the Great Dane, has her own page and a 6 1/2 minute video of one year in her life. Honey is unusual in that she has learned "dance" routines for competition and has done therapy work. Nice photos. This is the intro page for her blog.

<http://www.danesonline.com/pic.shtml>

Great Danes Online has several pictures on their home page: "Pics of the Week."

<http://www.hoflin.com/br/great%20danes>

Great Dane owners share their opinions on this page.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Dane

Wiki article on Great Danes. Several small photos.

You Tube--Great Danes:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2dbt65yCM6c>

"Breed All About It--Great Dane" with great footage and information. (short commercial first) 2:15

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8YPHoc0dR0>

"Great Dane Running 30 mph Fast From the Side" --documents the speed. :26

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20vf8E1oWol>

"Weight Pull Training" video of Great Dane easily pulling 75 pounds--no sweat! 1:24

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y4xmE_zSPE0

"Great Dane at the Bubbler"--using a drinking fountain dispenser by stepping on the foot pedal then lapping out the cold water. Drip. Drip. Drip! 1:00