

Dog Gone

Purpose

Students will write a friendly letter complete with the date, salutation (greeting), body, closing, and signature.

Materials

For the teacher: chalk, chalkboard

For the students: writing paper, pen/pencil, copies of Black Line Master (BLM) *Have You Seen My Pet?*

Activity

A. Pre-Activity Discussion

1. Discuss how special pets can be to people.
2. Ask the students to pick a particular pet: their own, a relative's, or a neighbor's, and to pretend that the animal has disappeared. Have them reflect on how the pet looks, smells, feels, etc. Ask them questions such as: "Why is this pet so important to its owner?" "Why is it so special?"
3. Explain how many people post letters at veterinarians' offices and at animal shelters to find missing pets.
4. Explain to students that they are going to learn to write a letter.

B. Activity

1. Distribute the BLM *Have You Seen My Pet?*
2. Explain that letters have the date, a greeting, the body, a closing, and the signature.
3. Illustrate where these go by writing the components of a friendly letter on the chalkboard.
4. Have students fill out the BLM.

C. Close the Activity

1. Have students share their letters in small groups or with the whole group.
2. Have students draw pictures of the missing pet to go along with their letters in the picture box provided on the BLM.

**MEETING
INDIVIDUAL****NEEDS**

Students might need assistance beginning their letters. Provide starter sentences for them or create fill-in-the-blank sentences.

**INCORPORATING****TECHNOLOGY**

Have the letter adapted as an e-mail message. Encourage students to search the Internet for stories.

**Standards Link
2.5.2**

Questions for Review

Basic Concepts and Processes

After the activity, ask students the following questions about how to write a friendly letter:



Can you name the parts of a friendly letter?



Can you describe where each of the parts goes?



Do you have a special way of remembering the parts and where they go?

My Pet

Name: _____

Have You Seen My Pet?

Directions: You are going to write a friendly letter to someone who can help you find your pet. Fill in the blanks below.

	_____ (Date)
Dear _____, (Salutation/Greeting)	

(Body)	
	_____ (Closing)
	_____ (Sign your name)