

BABE THE GALLANT PIG

DICK KING-SMITH

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READING RIGHT

BABE, THE GALLANT PIG

Synopsis

Farmer Hogget wins Babe at a fair, and takes him home to live with the other animals. Fly, a mother sheep dog takes care of Babe and lets him follow her around. Babe thinks Fly's job is interesting and decided he wants to be a sheep dog when he grows up. At first fly thinks that it is impossible, but with Babe's determination and a little practice, he starts to learn. Fly has been using strength to boss the sheep around, but Babe feels there is a better way, He is Polite to the sheep. The sheep like babe better because he is kinder to them. Fly and the farmer do not understand it, but they let Babe do the job since he does it so well. The farmer even thinks that Babe has a chance in the sheep dog championships, and enters him in the competition. Babe had been given special sheep passwords by Fly, who overcomes her prejudices to help. Babe successfully wins the championship.

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Lesson 1

Chapters 1-2

1. How did Farmer Hogget win the pig?
2. What kind of dogs are Fly and her puppies?
3. Circle the event that happened last.
 - A. The puppies heard the ducks around the yard.
 - B. They call Mr. Hogget to tell him he won the pig.
 - C. The pig's mother calls him Babe.
4. Why is the pig squealing at the fair when he gets picked up?
5. Why did Fly think that pigs were stupid?

6. What is the reason that Babe follows Fly around?
7. What is Mrs. Hogget planning to do with the pig when it gets bigger?

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Lesson 2

Chapters 3-5

1. List two of the characteristics of Mr. Hogget that are mentioned in the story up to this point.
2. Why were Fly's puppies leaving the farm?
3. When Babe was going up the hill towards the flock, the sheep were heading towards him and the gate. Who was heading them and why?
4. After the puppies had all been sold, why was Fly particularly glad to have Babe around?

5. Fly believes that sheep are dumb and that you must boss them if you want them to obey. What do you think is the reason she feels that way?

6. Why has Mrs. Hogget changed her mind about Babe being a good meal?

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Lesson 3

Chapters 6-7

1. Why did the sheep make it hard for Fly to move them to the paddock?

2. When Babe told the sheep what he wanted to be, they laughed at him. What did he want to be?

3. Why doesn't Fly mind the boss is using Babe instead of her?

4. Circle the letter of the even that happened first.
 - A. Babe brought the sheep in.
 - B. The farmer crossed his fingers before giving an order.
 - C. Babe and Fly talked about the farmer using Babe instead of Fly.

5. What do you think the farmer expected to happen when he gave Babe the first command?

6. Tell about a person who has done something everyone else said was impossible.

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Lesson 4

Chapters 8-10

1. Why is Mr. Hogget setting up a practice course for a sheep dog?
2. Fly puts Babe on an exercise program and diet. Why?
3. Fly is being polite to the sheep for the first time because she needs some information. What does she want to know?
4. Put the following events in the correct order.
_____ Babe saves the sheep from the wild dogs.
_____ Fly talks to the sheep.
_____ Mr. Hogget takes Babe out to shoot him.
5. What is the farmer so angry about when he finds Babe next to the dead sheep?
6. Why doesn't Mrs. Hogget already know about Babe rounding up the sheep for Mr. Hogget?

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Lesson 5

Chapters 11-12

1. Why did Mrs. Hogget believe that Mr. Hogget should stop taking Babe around in the truck?
2. At the competition, what took Babe so long to get the sheep started through the course?
3. In what country does this story take place?
4. If there was a moral to the story, what do you think it would be?
5. What was your favorite part of the story and why?

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Answer Key

Lesson 1

1. Farmer Hogget won the pig by guessing his correct weight.
2. Fly and her puppies are collies trained to be sheep dogs.
3. A
4. The pig squeals when he is picked up at the fair because he doesn't like people holding him.
5. Fly thinks pigs are stupid because her mother told her they were and she has never seen otherwise. She also felt that since pigs were eaten by people they must not have any other value. Therefore, they must be dumb.
6. Babe follows Fly around because he wants to learn from her.
7. Mrs. Hogget is planning on making a meal out of the pig when it gets bigger.

Lesson 2

1. Two characteristics about Mr. Hogget are that he is kind or softhearted, and he never talks much.
2. Fly's puppies were leaving the farm because they had been sold. The farmer raised sheep puppies and sold them to other farmers.
3. As Babe is heading up the hill towards the flock, some rustlers and their dogs are heading the sheep towards Babe and the gate. They were stealing the sheep.
4. Fly was particularly glad to have Babe around after her puppies had been sold because she missed her puppies and she was a little lonely. Babe kept her from being lonely.

5. Fly thinks sheep are dumb because she was taught that their main use seemed to be for food, and she thought they weren't as smart as she was. Concept: We have some prejudices about things that we do not have facts about. We may dislike a food without ever having tried it. That can be true about people too. We may not like someone even though we don't know him or her.
6. Mrs. Hogget has changed her mind about Babe being a good meal because he saved the sheep. She thinks he is more valuable than a simple meal.

Lesson 3

1. The sheep didn't like Fly's rudeness and were making it hard for her because Babe had been so polite.
2. Babe wanted to be a sheep dog.
3. Fly doesn't mind Babe doing her job because she is proud of her and, besides, she is older and could use the rest.
4. B
5. Answers will vary. a) He thought Babe was smart and would follow the directions, or b) He hoped Babe would follow the command but he really doesn't think a pig can do it.
6. Answers will vary. There are many examples of people who did something that others thought impossible. There may be someone in your family who did something others thought too hard.

Lesson 4

1. Mr. Hogget is setting up a practice course that is normally used for sheep dog. He thinks Babe is a good sheep dog and is thinking about entering him in competition.
2. Babe is on an exercise and diet program so he can run faster.

3. Fly is being polite to the sheep for the first time so that she can find out if Babe killed the sheep.
4. The correct order is: 1, 3, 2
5. The farmer is angry with Babe when he finds him next to the dead sheep because he thinks Babe killed him.
6. Mrs. Hogget doesn't know about Babe rounding up the sheep since it is so unusual and Mr. Hogget doesn't want to be laughed at until he is sure of Babe's ability.

Lesson 5

1. Mrs. Hogget thought the pig was too heavy to be in the truck, he might break it.
2. At the competition Babe took a long time to get the sheep started because he had to tell the sheep what he wanted.
3. This story takes place in England.
4. Answers will vary. One moral to the story might be that, you can change what you are if you work at it hard enough.
5. Answers will vary.