

HELP! I'M TRAPPED IN OBEDIENCE SCHOOL

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Synopsis

This is a humorous story about three friends and a machine full of trouble. Andy is staying with his friend Jake for a few days while his parents are out of town. Jake tells his friends about the strange machine in Mr. Dirksen's garage. When no one is around, they slip into the garage and Josh pulls a switch. The next thing they know, their friend Andy is in the body of Jake's dog, and Lance the dog is in Andy's body.

The next few days are full of surprises as Jake and Josh make excuses for strange behavior of the dog in Andy's body. Meanwhile, the boy Andy in the dog's body decides he likes it. No school, no homework, he can just run around and have fun. It takes Jake and Josh awhile to get the real Andy and Lance the dog back to the garage so they can be switched back. Finally, the switch happens just before Andy's parents return home. What a strange week they've all had.

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LESSON 1

Chapters 1 - 7

1. Tell 2 things Lance, the dog, does that makes the father mad.
2. Why does Jake feel sorry for his science teacher, Mr. Dirksen?
3. Where is the machine that switches things?
4. What is obedience school?
5. Put the following events in order.
____ The boys go to Mr. Dirksen's garage
____ The boys are playing basketball in Jake's driveway
____ The boys take Lance to the park
6. When Josh pulled the switch in Mr. Dirksen's garage, what might he have thought was going to happen?
7. What parts of the story so far make this seem like a fantasy story?

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LESSON 2

Chapters 8 - 14

1. Who changed places with Lance the dog?
2. On the back draw a picture of what you think Lance looks like in Andy's body.
3. What does "indignantly" mean? "Lance barked back, a little indignantly."
4. Before the boys can switch the two back to themselves something happens.
What was it?
 - A. The real dog runs away and they can't find him.
 - B. It starts to rain and they have to go home.
 - C. Jessica wants to take Lance to obedience school.
5. What do you think Andy's parents would do if they came home and found that their son was now a dog?
6. Pretend you could be a dog for a day. What would you like the most?

What would you like the least about being a dog?

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LESSON 3

Chapters 15 - 22

1. The boys say the Lance and Andy have two things in common. What are they?
2. How did Josh explain Andy's barking to the policemen?
3. What game did Josh tell his parents he was playing with Andy?
4. What does "harass" mean?
"Don't you people have anything better to do than harass people and their pets?"
5. The boys met several people on their walk with Andy. Put the people they met in the order they met them.
____ man with large dog
____ woman with poodle
____ policemen
6. If you saw a dog eating a sandwich what would you think about it?
7. Which do you think would be harder to convince your parents about - that a boy in a dog's body is really a dog OR that a dog in a boy's body is really a boy?
Explain your answer.

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LESSON 4

Chapters 23 - 28

1. What reasons does Josh give for taking Andy, the dog, to school?
2. Who runs away with the baseball while the kids are playing a game before school?
3. Why does Lance decide he wants to stay in a dog's body?
4. Alex said that Andy had gone "mental." What did he mean?
5. Do you think the dog realizes he is in a human's body? Explain your answer.
6. What story would you have told Mr. Dirksen to explain Andy's strange behavior?

JUST FOR FUN - Can you think of phrases that we use that have dog in them?
examples - dog tired let sleeping dogs lie

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LESSON 5

Chapters 29 - 35

1. What makes Lance change his mind about staying a dog?
2. When Jake tried to switch Andy and Lance back to themselves the first time what happened?
3. The second time Andy was mostly back to himself except for:
 - _____ large paws for his hands and feet
 - _____ long pointed ears covered in fur
 - _____ a long wagging tail
4. What does "skeptical " mean? "...Jessica asked skeptically."
5. Tell another way you would have used to get Andy out of the tree.
6. Who would you like to be your best friend, Josh or Jake? Explain your answer.
7. What is Jake wondering about as the story ends?

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Answer Key

LESSON 1

1. Lance made the father mad when he - ate the father's shoe, chewed on the coffee table leg, ate the lamb that was for dinner.
2. Jake has felt sorry for his science teacher since the time they accidentally switched bodies and Jake learned how hard it was to teach.
3. The machine that switches things is in Mr. Dirksen's garage.
4. Dogs are sent to obedience school to learn how to behave.
5. The correct order is 3, 1, and 2.
6. Answers will vary.
7. Answers will vary. Things in the story like people and animals switching bodies, something that couldn't happen suggests that this is a fantasy story.

LESSON 2

1. Andy changes places with Lance the dog.
2. Drawings will vary.
3. Indignantly means in an angry way at something considered unfair or mean.
4. C
5. Answers will vary
6. Answers will vary

LESSON 3

1. What Lance and Andy have in common is that they both will eat anything and they don't like to shower.
2. Josh explained Andy's barking to the policeman by telling him that it was a new breathing technique for track.
3. Josh tells his parents he and Andy are playing dog tag.
4. Harass means to bother.
5. The correct order is 2, 1, and 3.
6. Answers will vary.
7. Answers will vary.

LESSON 4

1. Josh says he is taking Andy the dog to school so he won't chew on things, bother the cleaning lady who was coming, and be marked absent from school.
2. Andy, the dog, runs away with the baseball.
3. Lance wants to stay in the dog's body so he can stay home and watch TV and eat.
4. When Alex says that Andy has gone mental he means that Andy is acting weird and crazy.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.

JUST FOR FUN

Some other dog phrases you might have thought of are:

It's raining cats and dogs

It's a dog's life

LESSON 5

1. Lance decides he doesn't want to stay a dog when Jessica starts talking about having him washed and groomed.
2. The first time Jake tried to switch them back only part of them changed back.
3. Andy was mostly back except for LONG POINTED EARS COVERED IN FUR.
4. Skeptical means to doubt or not believing.
5. Answers will vary.
6. Answers will vary.
7. Jake appears to be wondering if the switch was really complete.