

Absolutely Lucy by Ilene Cooper

Before Reading

Chapter 1 *Shy Guy*

What does it mean to be shy? _____

How can you tell if someone is shy? _____

How could you respond to someone who seems shy? _____

After Reading

Chapter 1 *Shy Guy*

What is the problem for Bobby in Chapter 1? _____

On page 2, how does Bobby show he is shy? _____

How do Bobby's parents try to help? _____

Chapter 2 The Birthday Present

Before Reading:

Draw or write about a birthday present you've gotten. Was it a surprise? _____

After Reading

Chapter 2 The Birthday Present

How would you describe Bobby as a character? Use evidence from this chapter and/or chapter 1 to support your description.

How does the author show that Bobby is worried about his present?

Before Reading

Chapter 3 Lucy

How did you get your name? _____

If you could name a pet, what name would you pick and why? _____

After Reading

Chapter 3 Lucy

Why does Bobby name his dog Lucy? _____

Bobby reads about Beagles in a library book. You can also read about all kinds of dog breeds at akc.org.

Before Reading

Chapter 4 Lucy in Trouble

Draw or write about a pet you know who caused trouble.

After Reading

Chapter 4 Lucy in Trouble

What does Lucy do to cause trouble? _____

How does Bobby's dad react to Lucy's mess? _____

Circle the character traits Bobby's dad shows when Lucy causes trouble:

impatience bravery patience fear kindness forgiveness hatred

Use examples from the text to show what character traits Bobby's dad has.

Before Reading

Chapter 5 Lucy to the Rescue

Make a prediction. What do you think the rescue in this chapter could be?

After Reading

Chapter 5 Lucy to the Rescue

Why is it hard for Bobby to make friends? _____

How does Bobby respond when the toddler at the park is afraid of Lucy? Use words from the text to support your answer.

Before Reading

Chapter 6 One Friend

List 5 words that describe a good friend:

After Reading Chapter 6 One Friend

Why does Bobby go to Mr. Davis' house? _____

How did Lucy help Bobby make a new friend? _____

Before Reading

Chapter 7 Dog School

Have you ever tried to train a dog? _____ If not, talk with someone who has, or you can watch a dog training video at www.akc.org.

What is important to remember when training a dog? Circle all that apply.

- a) Be patient and positive
- b) Punish often
- c) Train several hours a day
- d) Give lots of treats and praise

After Reading

Chapter 7 Dog School

Why does Lucy need to go to school? _____

Do you think Bobby should go with her? Why or why not? _____

Before Reading

Chapter 8 Two Friends

What advice would you give someone who wants to make friends, but is shy? _____

After Reading

Chapter 8 Two Friends

Read the excerpt from page 54.

"Hi," said a girl about Bobby's age.

Bobby looked at the ground. "Hi," he mumbled.

"My name is Candy," the girl said. "This is Butch." She pointed to her dog, a boxer.

..."How long have you had Lucy?" Candy asked.

Before Bobby could answer, Candy said, "We've had Butch about two months."

What does this excerpt tell you about how Bobby and Candy are different?

By the end of the chapter, how does Bobby feel about Candy? What words from the text show how he feels?

Before Reading

Chapter 9 One More Friend

Draw a picture of you and your friend doing something you enjoy.

After Reading

Chapter 9 One More Friend

On page 65 Bobby has a funny feeling in his stomach. What is that feeling? _____

On page 70 how does Lucy help Bobby make a new friend? _____

On page 70 the author writes "The boy was in no hurry to get his ball. He just stood there as Bobby and Lucy came toward him. His eyes were down on the sidewalk.

He's not very friendly, Bobby thought. Then Bobby realized that he knew that look. He knew it very well."

What does Bobby realize about the boy? _____

Which character traits describe Bobby in this chapter? Circle all that apply.

kindness anger revenge loyalty bravery love fear

After Reading Absolutely Lucy

Discussion Questions

Sometimes people who are shy seem unfriendly. They may not look at you or talk to you. Sometimes you might think shy people are being mean when this happens. Was Bobby trying to be mean when he didn't talk to other kids?

What gave Bobby the courage to speak to a boy he didn't know?

How did Lucy show Bobby that it's worth the effort to try to make new friends?