

PRAISE FOR ANN M. MARTIN
AND *A DOG'S LIFE*

★“Martin’s winsome novel, written from a canine’s point of view, is sure to melt the hearts of animal lovers.

After following Squirrel’s harrowing encounters with freezing temperatures, dangerous enemies and near starvation, readers will utter a sigh of relief when she finds a human who needs Squirrel as much as Squirrel needs her.”

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★“Heart-wrenching as well as heart-warming.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

To get more information about the book, canine trivia, suggested reading, and how you can get involved in helping stray animals, visit

<http://us.macmillan.com/everythingfordog>



Discussion Guide written by
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ABOUT THE BOOK

Dogs, it is said, are a man’s best friend. In *Everything for a Dog* we meet a boy who wants a dog, a boy who loses a dog, and a dog who needs a home. These three stories connect in an unexpected way, and allow the reader an intimate look at the difficult lives of abandoned and stray animals, the compassionate acts of human beings that can help them survive, and the surprising ways in which animals can help human beings heal and find happiness.

Bone is a stray dog, born in the wild. As he travels the countryside, he is taken into several homes by strangers and must learn how to be someone’s pet and companion. But he doesn’t find a permanent home until after he is rescued from an animal trap in the woods by Henry, a boy who longs for a dog.



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award-winning
author of
a dog's life
ann m. martin

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Discussion Guide for Libraries,
Classrooms, and Book Groups



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ANN M. MARTIN's 2005 novel, *A Dog's Life*, is the story of a stray dog, who, early in the book, is separated from her brother. The novel appealed to her already huge audience, but also broadened her readership to include more boys than ever. Their many fan letters to her asked when she would write about the lost brother—they had to know his story too.

Ann M. Martin is the author of the Baby-sitters club and Main Street series; the novels *Belle Teal*, *A Corner of the Universe* (winner of the Newbery Honor), *Here Today*, and *On Christmas Eve*, as well as the Doll People novels (written with Laura Godwin and illustrated by Brian Selznick). Ann lives in upstate New York with her beloved dog, Sadie, whose mother was a stray, and several rescued cats.

PRaise FOR EVERYTHING FOR A DOG

"This is a sensitive, gentle read that surrounds its occasional heartbreak with plenty of hope and warm feelings."—*Booklist*



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Henry, Bone, and Charlie have very different stories, but they also share something in common. How are they similar when it comes to their dreams and hopes? How are they different?
- Bone experiences life in small towns and in the woods. Which do you think he prefers and why?
- Early on in the novel, we learn that "Charlie wishes he could be anywhere other than at the graduation of his dead brother" where he must accept his diploma. Why do you think this is? Can you find another example in the story where Charlie is asked to replace his brother? How does this make him feel?
- How does Charlie respond to EJ's death? What helps him?
- If you were in Charlie's place, would you want to get another dog after Sunny's accident? Why or why not?
- Henry tries to prove that he is ready to own a dog, but feels his plan is a failure. Do you agree with him?
- What does Bone learn about human beings during his many adventures?
- Why does Bone run away from Franklin's empty apartment? Do you think this was a good decision?
- Survival is an important theme in *Everything for a Dog*. How does it factor into the stories of Henry, Bone, and Charlie? What does each of them need to do in order to survive his disappointments?
- What does "home" mean to Charlie, Bone, and Henry? How are their definitions different and how are they the same?
- What did you learn about the life of a stray dog from this story? Did it surprise you in any way?
- Early in the novel, Henry makes a Christmas list in which he wishes for a dog and "everything for a dog." Imagine that you are Henry and make a list of ten reasons why you should have a dog. Be sure to write the list from Henry's point of view!
- Write a diary from the point of view of Bone. Describe his experiences from the time he runs away from Franklin's empty apartment until he meets Henry.
- Research quotes from well-known people (authors, sports figures, celebrities, humanitarians, and world leaders) about the importance of treating animals with compassion and respect. Create a poster, webpage, scrapbook, or photo essay combining these quotes with photographs and other visual images.
- Create a "bill of rights" for abandoned animals. Send it to your local elected official or animal shelter.