



TITLE: Love that dog

AUTHOR: Sharon Creech

INTEREST AGE: 8-12 Years

BOOKBAND: Dark Blue

OUR REVIEW: Excellent. Compelling, short read. May need promoting though.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:

Jack doesn't want to write poetry at the beginning of the book. Why does he not want to?

In Jack's first poem, he writes:
So much depends upon a blue car splattered with mud speeding down the road.
Why was the blue car important to Jack?

What caused Miss Strechberry to be so interested in Jack's first poem? Describe what Miss Strechberry does to get Jack to write more poems, especially about the blue car.

How does Jack respond when Miss Strechberry asks him to write about a pet? Why do you think Miss Strechberry insists he write the poem despite Jack's reaction?

What are Jack's feelings towards Sky? Make a list of details from the book that describes Jack's feelings toward his dog.

Jack changes a great deal in the novel. Think about these changes. Then create a chart with two headings: "Beginning of school year" and "End of school year". Under each heading, list examples of the things Jack does, thinks and says in the beginning of the year compared to the end of the year.

Imagine Miss Strechberry has just asked Jack to write an essay telling what he has discovered about poetry and how it can change a person's life. What would the essay say?

Sky's death affected Jack deeply. If you had just lost a much-loved pet, what things could you, or other people, do to help you cope with the loss? Create a list of ideas.

Miss Strechberry is able to convince Jack to write poetry and share his feelings even though he doesn't want to. Point out the qualities Miss Strechberry has as a person, and as a teacher, that allow her to reach Jack.

Why does Jack fall in love with Walter Dean Myers' poetry? What effect does Mr. Myers' visit to the school have on Jack? How do you know?

There are many ways a poet can paint a picture in a reader's mind with words. They include, similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia, and more. Find examples of the techniques the poets use in *Love That Dog*. As a group, choose three verses from the novel that created the most vivid pictures.

How might Jack's life have been different if he hadn't had Miss Strechberry as his teacher?

It's the end of the school year, and Jack wants to thank Miss Strechberry for being such a great teacher. Compose a letter or write a poem from Jack that shows his appreciation for Miss Strechberry.

How did reading *Love That Dog* change your point of view about poetry?

ACTIVITIES:

Choose your favourite poem at the end of *Love That Dog*, and explain what the narrator was trying to say in your own words

Create your own shape poem. Use 'The Apple' by S.C. Rigg and 'My Yellow Dog' by Jack as models.

Get a collection of poems from your favourite poet. Read the poems and choose your favourite. Create a collage to illustrate what the poem is about.

Other books by Sharon Creech include...

