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Trade Book Sheet

Title of book: Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School

Author's Name: Mark Teague

Publisher: Scholastic Inc.

Copyright Year: 2002

Reading Level: Lexile 500, Grade 3

Genre: Modern Fantasy

Synopsis: The story is told all through newspaper articles, pictures, and letters from the dog. Ike the dog was sent to obedience school by his owner Mrs. LaRue because he steals food from the kitchen table, chases the neighbor's cats, howls, and he tore her camel hair coat. Ike writes her letters about how bad the school is. His letters explain his actions to her, and they tell stories of the horrible wardens of the school. His typewriter gets taken away, and he pretends to get sick. Ike then escapes the school, and he sends letters from his different destinations. He returns home in time to save Mrs. LaRue from an oncoming truck. Her coat gets torn again, but she does not care. She missed him, and she is glad to have him home again.

Standard: Language Arts 3.4.3 Create single paragraphs with topic sentences and simple supporting facts and details.

Activity: The students will write letters to the editor of the newspaper in the book. Their letters must be at least one paragraph long, and it must include a topic sentence and supporting facts and details. They will express their opinion of Ike in the paragraph, and they will use the book to support their view point. They can describe things that happened according to Ike, or they can use what the pictures depict to support their view point.

(Original idea by Jessica Lange)

Standard: Math 3.5.9 Tell time to the nearest minute and find how much time has elapsed.

Activity: As a class, the students will decide what time events in the story happened. The students will mark the times with sticky notes in their books. The students will reread the story with partners. Each time they get to a sticky note, they will look at the clock in the room and tell the time. Using the current time in the room, they will figure out the time elapsed since Ike did the event in the book (using the time on the sticky note). The students will record their findings on a chart.

(Original idea by Jessica Lange)