

Name: _____ Date: _____

Woof and Wow!

If you've spent time with a dog, you know that they understand a lot of human words. Sometimes we even have to spell words such as *w-a-l-k* and *t-r-e-a-t* so they *won't* know what we're saying! Most dogs learn almost 200 human words. And our canine companions don't just notice what we say—they also pick up on *how* we say it. Dogs love it when their humans speak sweetly to them and praise them with words such as "good boy" or "well done."

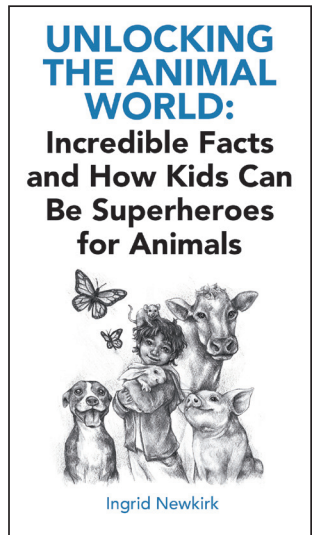
Do you sometimes think your dog can tell when you're having a bad day? You're probably right. Dogs can read emotions on people's faces and appear to feel sympathy for us when we're upset.

Dogs are much better at learning our language than we are at learning theirs. But scientists do know that they make many different sounds and that each one has its own meaning. Dogs use particular barks, yaps, whines, howls, and growls to communicate. They use one kind of growl to say, "Stay away from my food." Another kind of growl means, "Here comes a stranger." These growls might sound the same to us but not to other dogs.

Some dogs have been given the chance to use human words to talk to us. A woman named Christina works with children who need help with speech. She has a special keyboard with buttons on it that each play one word. Christina wanted to know if her dog, Stella, could also use the keyboard. Stella quickly learned to press buttons to say "water," "play," and "outside." Then she started learning more words. Once, Christina forgot to give Stella her dinner. So Stella reminded her by pressing the buttons for "eat" and "no."

One day, Christina was talking on the phone. Stella wanted her attention. She pushed the "look," "come," "play" buttons." Christina kept talking. Stella tried again. "Want. Play. Outside." Christina was still on the phone. Stella got frustrated and did something funny. She went to her keyboard and pressed the buttons for "love you" and "no!"

We can make sure our dogs always think, "love you" and "yes!" We can keep them safe inside, always remember to give them food and water, play with them, and take them for walks.



Write a three- to four-sentence summary in the space below.

Answer Sheet

Summarizing

Title: Woof and Wow!

Summary: (*Answers may vary.*)

Write a three- to four-sentence summary in the space below.

In this passage, the author describes how dogs and humans communicate with each other.

Dogs notice what we say and how we say it and can read emotions on people's faces. They use particular barks, yaps, whines, howls, and growls to communicate. One dog, Stella, learned how to communicate to her guardian what she wanted and how she felt by using a special keyboard.