

Hot Dog

READ ALOUD

Themes: Animal Relationship, Calming down, City v. country life, Feeling overwhelmed

Book Brief: A city dog loves his person, but a hot, crowded, noisy day becomes too much to bear. His owner sees what he needs and takes him to a quiet beach, where he can run, rest, and feel like himself again.

Author(s):

Doug Salati

Illustrator(s):

Doug Salati



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Look at the dog on the cover. Where is the dog, and how does the dog seem to feel? What makes you think so?

The Pictures: Flip briefly through the pictures. Where do the pictures feel crowded and hot, and where do they feel open and cool?

Prior Knowledge: Ask students, “Do you remember a time a place felt too loud or too crowded. What helped you feel better?”

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [vocabulary guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, notice how the illustrations show the dog’s feelings and carry the story, especially where there are few or no words.”

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- In the city, what is the dog seeing, hearing, and smelling? What clues show the day feels like “too much”?
- The dog won’t move one bit in the crosswalk. What clues tell you how the dog is feeling?
- As they leave the city, how do the pictures change? What do you notice about the colors and the space?
- On the beach, what can the dog do here that he couldn’t do in the city?
- At the end, how does the dog feel? What clues in the last pictures show it?



Think Aloud: “I notice the city pages are packed with hot reds and oranges and feel crowded and tight. When they reach the beach, the colors turn cool and blue and the space opens up. The pictures are showing me the dog’s feelings shifting from “too much” to calm, even on pages with no words.”

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: We read to see how Doug Salati’s illustrations show the dog’s changing feelings and tell the story, even without words. How did Janie respond when she couldn’t find an owl? What kept her going?

Extending Our Thinking: Have students use RIF’s [Step Into the Story: Writing Activity](#) chart to write their own story with a place for them that feels hot and crowded and a space that feels open and cool.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more titles about calm and busy worlds.
 - [A Sick Day for Amos McGee](#) (2011)
 - [Last Stop on Market Street](#) (2016)