A close-up photograph of a golden retriever's face, focusing on its eyes and nose. The dog's fur is a warm, golden-brown color. The text is centered over the dog's face.

A  
DOG'S  
PURPOSE

CURRICULUM

LESSON 2



## Lesson 2: Stages of A Dog's Life

Subject: Creative Writing, Event Sequencing, Math

### Tail-wagging Information

Dogs are amazing animals, and they make such great pets. Think about all the things a dog gets to experience as a pet: his first hug by his owner, her first bath, tasting new doggie treats, and bonding with the family. In *A Dog's Purpose*, the dogs were with different types of families, had different responsibilities, and lived in different situations. But many of them involved a dog's true purpose as Buddy shared in the film: Have fun. Save someone. Lick the ones you love. Be here now.

It is good to understand more about dog personalities and how they think. Dogs are wired to live in packs. In the wild, that means they live in organized dog groups with a leader – the alpha dog. In homes, dogs consider their family to be their pack. The most aggressive and strongest individual in the home is considered by them to be the alpha, or the leader, and they will serve and follow that alpha, whether it is another dog or their human master.

As you play the game in this lesson, notice the spaces that highlight some of the experiences a dog will have during its life. Some of them are difficult, some are exciting, but most of them are just plain fun!



### DOGGIE BAG BONUS


Here are some fun facts about dogs:


- When a puppy is born, he is blind, deaf, and without teeth.
- Dogs can locate the source of a sound in 0.06 seconds by using their swiveling ears like radar dishes.
- It was recently discovered that dogs can see in color, just not as vividly as humans can.
- Dogs have over 200 million scent receptors in their noses as compared to humans who only have 5 million.
- Contrary to popular belief, dogs do not sweat by salivating; they sweat through the pads of their feet.

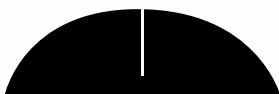
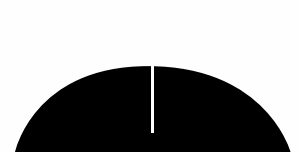
 **OLDER and YOUNGER STUDENTS:** Play printable board game, paying attention to the labelled spaces. You will be prompted to write a story using some of those spaces on the board.

**Materials needed:** Printable game board and game pieces (included), tape, two dice.

Print out the game board and cut out dog playing pieces, taping the ends so they stand up. Choose a game piece and take turns rolling, following any instructions on the spaces you land on.

 **OLDER STUDENTS:** While playing the game, keep track of the spaces you land on. Then write a short story using the events on those spaces. Include a problem that needs solving or a situation that needs resolving in your story. You can use a situation on the game board or make one up.











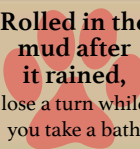


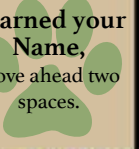

 **YOUNGER STUDENTS:** Choose three spaces from the board game and include them in a story you make up. Plan a beginning, a middle, and an end to your story. Then write your story in your notebook or tell your story to someone else so they can write it down for you.





# A DOG'S PURPOSE

Printable Board Game

		 <p>Learned to heel, move ahead one space</p>				
 <p>Found your boy's lost shoe, roll again</p>					 <p>Found a lost child, move up 5 spaces</p>	
			 <p>Took a long nap in the sun, lose a turn</p>			
						
 <p>Chewed master's shoes, go back two spaces</p>		 <p>Retrieved the morning paper, move ahead two spaces</p>				
					 <p>Rolled in the mud after it rained, lose a turn while you take a bath</p>	
	 <p>Comforted sad boy, roll again</p>					
						
		 <p>Learned your Name, move ahead two spaces.</p>				 <p>Chased chickens, go back one space</p>

START HERE



# A DOG'S PURPOSE

Printable Board Game



			Became alpha dog on the farm, move ahead two spaces		
Learned to get along with the family cat, roll one die again				Jumped up on strangers while walking with your master, go back one space	
		Ate bacon under the table and got a stomachache, go back two spaces			
			Barked when there was a fire in the house, move ahead two spaces for alerting your family	Slept in master's bed, move ahead one space	
Came inside after it rained and shook water all over the house, go back one space					
				Swallowed your master's prized coin, lose a turn	
					
Learned to fetch a football, roll one die again			Met a new dog friend at the park and stopped to play, lose a turn		

**FINISH HERE**