



A STUDY GUIDE FOR
ELLIE'S STORY

A DOG'S PURPOSE NOVEL BY

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STUDY GUIDE WRITTEN BY
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CHAPTER ONE

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

scrambled
mysterious
fascinating



1. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** What does Ellie blame her brother for in the first few pages of Chapter 1?
2. **(DETAILS AND DIALOGUE)** How do you know Ellie is a girl? Find evidence in the text and use quotation marks to cite the evidence.
3. **(FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE)** What simile does the author use to describe grass **(HUMOR AND DETAILS RI.4.1)** Explain how the author W. Bruce Cameron uses humor when Ellie is told “Good dog” for following the man. Support your answer with a detail from the text.
4. Name the 3 different tasks that Jakob made Ellie perform.
5. **(INFERENCE RL.4.4)** Why do you think Jakob made Ellie do several tasks before choosing to take Ellie home? What detail from the text helps you make this inference?

CHAPTER TWO

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

grudge
bounded
thrashed

1. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** What clue words does the author W. Bruce Cameron use to show that Ellie does not like the truck ride?
2. **(CONTEXT CLUES)** When Ellie explores her new home, what are the following in actuality and what clue words help the reader to make these inferences?

Ellie's Words	Actual Object	Clue Words in Text
"little doors" pg. 21		
"a box that made noise" pg. 21		
"The animal...zigged and zagged" pg. 22		

3. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** What are Ellie's favorite words from Jakob and why are they Ellie's favorite words?
4. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** Cite two reasons why Ellie did not like sleeping in her bed.
5. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** Why do you think Ellie enjoys Georgia more than Jakob? Cite at least one detail from the text as evidence.
6. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** What are the two tricks Ellie learns in Chapter 2 and which one is her favorite?



CHAPTER THREE

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

strained
frantically
contribution
barreling
hoisted

1. **(DETAILS RI.4.1 AND INFERENCE RL4.1)** Why did the game of Find get harder for Ellie in Chapter 3? Use at least one detail from the text.
2. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** How does author W. Bruce Cameron use humor on Pg. 35 when explaining the “Show Me” game? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
3. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** List the three new tasks Ellie had to learn at the park.
4. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** Why do you think Ellie needs to become comfortable with:
 - A) being hoisted off the ground?
 - B) the sound of a gunshot?

CHAPTER FOUR

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

enthusiasm
utter
panic

1. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** Why does Jakob say, “Ellie’s not that kind of dog?” Explain using a detail.
2. What is Ellie actually talking about when she says, “Water was shooting up out of the middle of it?” What clue words help the reader figure this out?
3. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** Why was Ellie not willing to go into the water to fetch the stick. Use a detail from the text to support your answer.
4. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** Why did Jakob decide to jump into the water? What was Jakob’s purpose for doing so? Use a detail to support your answer.
5. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** What do you think the shiny thing was that Jacob took off his belt? What detail helps you make this inference?





CHAPTER FIVE

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

alert

aroma

scarlet tanager



1. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** Why was the second Find in Chapter 5 harder than the first Find in Chapter 4? Write a detail to support your answer.
2. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** What can you infer about Gypsy's job as a police dog? Support your answer with a detail.
3. **(DETAIL RI.4.1)** Why is Amy worried about Cammie? Cite evidence to support your answer.
4. **(PREDICTION)** Make a prediction as to what Ellie will be doing in Chapter 6 and cite a detail from the text as evidence for your prediction.

CHAPTER SIX

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

Alzheimer's
disease

astounded

tantalizing

objected

adoration

rubbish

1. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** What is Ellie's first task as a working dog in Chapter 6? Use a detail to support your answer.
2. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** Where does Ellie find the missing lady?
3. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** What does Ellie realize about her purpose in Chapter 6? Use a detail to support your answer.
4. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** Why do you think Ellie got to play her favorite game of tug after finding Marilyn? Cite a detail to support your inference.
5. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** What can you conclude about where Jakob and Ellie went at the end of the Chapter 6? List at least 2 details to support your inference.



CHAPTER seven

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

drowsy
frantically
resist
ordinarily
seesaw

1. **(INFERENCE RL4.1 AND DETAILS RI4.1)** Ellie and Jakob take a helicopter on the next “Work” in Chapter 7. Ellie says, “Jakob took me in the truck to the biggest pond I’d ever seen.” Pg. 68. What can you infer about what this pond actually is? Cite at least two clues that help you make this inference.
2. **(DETAILS RI4.1)** Explain how Ellie brought smiles to Jakob after finding the little girl. What exactly made Jakob chuckle?

CHAPTER EIGHT

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

tolerantly
anxiety
surveillance
bewilderment
entwined

1. **(DETAILS RI.4.1 AND TIME ORDER SUMMARY W.4.3.C)** Explain how Ellie tracked the scent of the little girl to a parked car. Use time order words to explain Ellie’s Steps.
2. **(DETAILS RI.4.1 AND QUOTATION W4.2.B)** Why does Ellie think the two terriers are jealous of her? Use quotations marks to cite the evidence.
3. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** How did Ellie know to lead Jakob down the steep road on the other side of the gate? Cite a detail from the text to support your answer.





CHAPTER NINE

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

hackles
sternness
cunning
gingerly
wrenched



1. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** Why did Ellie say, “My hackles rose when our eyes met and I felt my lips pulling up to show my teeth”? Pg. 82 Use a detail to support your answer.
2. **(FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE L.4.5)** What is the example of onomatopoeia and what sound does it represent?
3. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** How does the reader know that Jakob is hurt? Use two details to support your answer.
4. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** Why did Ellie wrench herself free from the policeman’s hand and run? Use details to support your answer.

CHAPTER TEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

gnawed
tension
sprawled
blissfully
warily

1. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** Why did Ellie feel like she was being punished?
2. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** Who is the new character in Chapter 10 and what is she worried about?
3. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** What was Wally trying to teach Maya?
4. **(DETAILS RI.4.1 AND CHARACTER ANALYSIS R)** Why is Work different with Maya than with Jakob? Be sure to use at least one detail to compare the characters’ actions.



CHAPTER ELEVEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

resign
certified
determination
steadily
eagerly

1. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** List three activities that Ellie loves to do at Maya's house.
2. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** Why does Maya think she is not good enough to be certified? Use a detail as text evidence.
3. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** What does Maya do to solve her problem the next day?
4. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** Why do you think Ellie was running slowly to Find Belinda? Use a detail to support your inference.
5. **(HUMOR IN TEXT AND DETAILS RI.4.1)** How does the author W. Bruce Cameron use humor when Ellie talks about Emmet? Cite a detail as evidence.
6. **(TIME ORDER SUMMARY W.4.C)** Explain how Ellie took the sadness away from Maya at the end of the chapter. Be sure to use transition words and complete sentences.

CHAPTER TWELVE

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

core
dissolved
investigate
awkwardly

1. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** Why is Jakob taking Disability now?
2. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** Why does Jakob tell Maya that she can't quit her police job with Ellie? Use at least two details as text evidence.
3. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** How can you tell that Ellie is also concerned about people's feelings even though her purpose is to Find? Cite two details in your answer.
4. **(DETAILS RI.4.1 AND QUOTATION MARKS)** What is the one sentence that W. Bruce Cameron writes on Pg. 121 that convinces Maya not to give up training with Ellie? Use quotation marks to cite your quotation.
5. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** What can you infer about Jakob's character's traits based on the above quotation?





CHAPTER THIRTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

trestles

lanky

stammered

1. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** Why do you think there is a party at Mama's house (Maya's mom)? Use a detail to support your inference.
2. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** Why do you think Al ordered a large pepperoni pizza? Use a detail to support your answer and explain the situation in your own words.



CHAPTER FOURTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

disinfectant

tarmac

chemical

1. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** Explain why Ellie is in El Salvador for Work. Use at least two details to support your answer.
2. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** How can you tell that Maya and Ellie work through the entire night? Use a detail in the text as evidence for time of day.
3. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** Why do you think Maya would not take Ellie's leash off during this time of Work? Use at least one detail to support your inference.



CHAPTER FIFTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

victim
desperate
vanished
shaft
urgent

1. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** Why does Ellie disobey Maya and continue to Find instead of finding Vernon? Use quotation marks to cite a detail from the text.
2. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** Why is the woman so afraid of the harness while Ellie is not afraid of the harness? Use a detail in your answer.
3. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** What can you conclude about where Ellie went after rescuing the woman from the shaft based on clues from the text? Be sure to cite at least two details to support your inference.
4. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** W. Bruce Cameron uses the phrase, “uninteresting words” when Ellie describes humans. Make an inference as to what “uninteresting words” could mean for Ellie. (Remember, Ellie is describing human actions.)
5. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** What can you conclude about Ellie not being able to Find Wally? What has happened to Ellie’s sense of smell? Use a detail to support your inference.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

decertified
reassigned
timidly



1. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** Why is Ellie sensing nervous tension with both Al and Maya? Use a detail from the text in your answer.
2. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** W. Bruce Cameron writes, “I walked slowly down a narrow path between long wooden benches . . . Al took something out of a little pack that he’d already tied on my back.” What can you conclude about Ellie’s description here? Use a detail to support your inference.
3. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** Describe Ellie’s new Work job. Be sure to explain where and why Ellie’s new job is just as important as her old job using a detail from the text.
4. **(OPINION WRITING W.4.1.A & QUOTATIONS W.4.2.B)** In your opinion, has Ellie’s purpose changed in this chapter? Be sure to use a quotation from the text to support your opinion.



CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

tension
gurgled
rubbish
faint

1. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** Why does Maya think Ellie may not be able to help Find the missing boy? Be sure to use a detail from the text as evidence for your answer.
2. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** What are three scents that Ellie picks up from the canvas backpack?
3. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** Where did Ellie first smell Geoffrey's scent?
4. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** W. Bruce Cameron writes, "A round circle made out of iron was set in the concrete above Geoffrey's head" Pg. 175. Using clues from this page, what do you think the round circle actually is and why can't the policeman get it off?
5. **(DETAILS RI.4.1)** Cite two reasons why Ellie was terrified to jump into the water after Geoffrey.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

VOCABULARY

(L.4.4)

heaved
banks (of a river)
hoisted
wailed
urgency

1. **(OPINION WRITING W.4.1.A)** In your opinion, does Ellie think saving the life of Geoffrey as being more important than her own life? Be sure to use a detail from the text to support your opinion.
2. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** Do you think Geoffrey is awake or unconscious while Ellie drags him through the tunnel? Cite evidence to support your inference.
3. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** What can you conclude about where Maya takes Ellie a few weeks after saving Geoffrey? Cite evidence to support your inference.
4. **(INFERENCE RL.4.1)** W. Bruce Cameron writes, "He was so different from when I lived and worked with him. The coldness inside had gone away." pg. 189. What can you conclude about why Ellie thinks this? What has changed in Jakob's life? Use evidence from the text to support your inference.

