



FREEDOM



7-11



15 or less



PUPPY IN THE WOODS



45 min



- Recognizing the importance of responsibility.
- Thinking about concepts of freedom and responsibility.
- Understanding of freedom as a responsibility for themselves and others.



The printed story "Puppy in the woods"

Blank papers

Crayons and colors

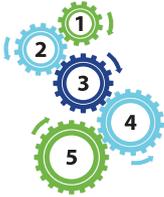


1. For each child print one story of "Puppy in the woods"
2. Ask one child to start reading a story, and after couple of sentences the second child should continue then the third one and so on. Others should listen to them and follow the written story on paper.

Puppy in the woods

Puppy lived with a family who had adopted him. He was very pleased, especially with Bobby and Nora, the children who cuddled and watched him, played with him. Mom and Dad often led him out and never forgot to feed him.

As he grew up, he started to love more and more the outdoor park where he could run around the meadow, either alone or with other dogs.



Dad often took him to the Great Park where he could run as much as he wanted. He would always warn Puppy that he's not allowed to go into the woods which was at the end of the park. It was not as clear to Puppy how is it possible that Daddy always sees him when he wants to run towards the woods.

Eventually, Puppy realized that he must not enter the woods.

One day in the park, on the top of the toboggan, he saw a gray cat, she was lazy sunbathing. For some reason he did not like cats. Often he could see the cats through the window lurking in the streets, never on the cusp, they were always free to walk around, they could go where they would like.

He was a bit jealous of them, and he did not like them any more than usual. He thought they were free, so he wanted to be free - go wherever he wanted, to run wherever he imagined.

When he saw this cat on a toboggan, he kicked out, started barking as hard as he could. He tried to climb the toboggan, but it was slippery.

The cat slide down from the toboggan and run towards the woods. The puppy ran as fast as he could. Still, the cat was fast as the arrow and ran into the woods. The dog stopped because he knew he was not allowed to go there. Again, he thought he lacked some freedom.

From that event, Puppy often thought about the woods. He would also think about the cat and the fact that she could go wherever she wanted while some areas were forbidden for him.

After a couple of days, Puppy came to the Big Park with Nora. She, did not like to sit on the benches like her Dad, that's why she would always find some girls and play with them.

The Puppy ran and came to the entrance of the woods. He stopped, turned and saw that Nora is playing and that she doesn't see him.

He gathered courage and entered the woods with the lightning speed, almost colliding with the trees.

He stopped. It was quite dark, through the branches of a multitude of trees, the rays of the sun rained.

Puppy did not feel well in the woods, but he was proud of himself. He gathered courage and began to explore.

He smacked the branches, leaves, pine needles, and everything he had encountered. He would sniff everything his eyes could see. "Ah, that's how it feels like to be free," - he thought.

He did not even notice that he went deep into the woods and that night was coming. It was darker and darker.

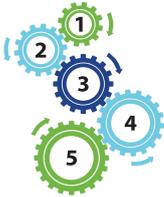
Only then Puppy lifted up his muzzle and realized that he did not know where he was, did not know how to go back to the park, and realized that is total dark in which he sees nothing. He got scared and started to run.

He ran so fast until he hit the tree which made him stop. The bump on his had made him take a big breath and come down. Puppy remembered to sniff, carefully trying to find some way out of the woods. He was very angry at himself. He should never enter the forest.

"Hu, huhu," suddenly he hears this strange sound. This was the voice of the old owl. Now he was really afraid.

He sniffed and sniffed but he couldn't find the way out. Every new sound increased his fear. He was thinking, and he was angry at himself. "I should have listened to Dad. If I had never entered the woods, right now I would be in the warm house eating out of the full bowl of delicious food. But since I didn't listen, I'm lost in the woods feeling cold and hungry and most of all scared as these forest sounds are frighten me. At least I should've been more responsible when I entered the woods. I should have been more careful and look and sniff where I'm going" he thought.

"Now, I just realize why Daddy of the family, and sometimes Mom, tell the kids that if we want to have more freedom, we have to be more responsible. When I entered the woods I was free, but not responsible. I was snooping and snooping and got lost" At that moment, he saw the lights in the distance, he ran over there and finally found himself outside of the forest. But he was not in the park, he was in some bright street where there were a lot of small houses. He carefully walked down through that street. His stomach crowned.



He began to think again about his irresponsibility. Suddenly, a little girl lifted him up. “What a dirty puppy you are,” the girl said. Puppy knew that on his necklaces, Mom wrote her phone number and that soon enough he will find himself in his home with his family. He was happy to have such a responsible and clever family to put their cell phone number on his necklaces.

3. When reading is over, ask the children if they understood the story and if something was unclear to them.

4. Start a discussion with children by opening a dialog with a help of following questions. After every question, ask sub-questions to set up discussion aimed to clarify answers that can be based on children answers:

- a) Why did Puppy enter the woods?
- b) What would you do in a similar situation? For example, someone warns you not to go somewhere, but you're curious and you want to explore. Explain why would you do that?
- c) If someone warns you not to go somewhere is s/he limiting your freedom?
- d) What is freedom? How can you describe freedom?
- e) In the story, Puppy realized that freedom is strongly connected with responsibility. Is he right?
- f) How freedom is connected with responsibility?
- g) How the world would look like if people had a lot of freedom, but don't have any responsibility?
- h) Is it hard to be responsible? Is it hard to be free?
- i) One smart man (Sigmund Freud) once claimed: “Most people do not really want freedom, because freedom involves responsibility, and most people are frightened of responsibility.” Do you agree with this sentence? Why?
- j) Why are people frightened of responsibility? Does this mean that they are afraid of freedom, too?

5. After finishing discussions, give one blank sheet of paper to each child and asks them to choose one scene from the story “Puppy in the woods”.

The scene should characterizes the concept of freedom or responsibility and the children need to draw that moment that describes one of these two concepts.

The picture should have a title that in one word or one sentence defines or describes what freedom or responsibility is to them.

