

# *Maxi's Secrets*

## *or, what you can learn from a dog*

By Lynn Plourde

### **Annotation**

When a BIG, lovable, does-it-her-way dog wiggles her way into the heart of a loudmouth pipsqueak of a boy, wonderful things happen that help him become a bigger, better person. With its diverse cast, authentic narrator, and perfect blend of spot-on middle-grade humor, drama, and wisdom, this powerful debut is relatable, funny, bittersweet, and full of heart.

Timminy knows that moving to a new town just in time to start middle school when you are perfect bully bait is less than ideal. But he gets a great consolation prize in Maxi--a gentle giant of a dog who the family quickly discovers is deaf. Timminy is determined to do all he can to help Maxi--after all, his parents didn't return him because he was a runt. But when the going gets rough for Timminy, who spends a little too much time getting shoved into lockers at school, Maxi ends up being the one to help him--along with their neighbor, Abby, who doesn't let her blindness define her and bristles at Timminy's "poor-me" attitude. It turns out there's more to everyone than what's on the surface, whether it comes to Abby, Maxi, or even Timminy himself.

### **Book Talk**

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### **Book Trailer**

- <https://youtu.be/seoAYrUVnNQ>

### **Author on the Internet**

- Website: <http://www.lynnplourde.com/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LynnPlourde>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Lynn-Plourde-208223469276148/>
- Good Reads: [https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/132398.Lynn\\_Plourde](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/132398.Lynn_Plourde)
- Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/LynnPlourde>
- [Deafdogsrock.com](http://Deafdogsrock.com)

### **Items to use in a library display**

- Dog
- American Sign Language alphabet picture/poster
- Braille book
- Map of Maine

## Food

- Homemade Fudge p. 12
- Spagetti O's p. 66
- Lemonade p. 70
- Horseradish Cheese p. 115
- Nacho Supreme Casserole p. 131

## Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics

- What is the history of your name?
- Dog Obedience Training
- Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia

## First Line of the Book

- "Let's get this part over with - it's no secret. My dog, Maxi, dies."

## Non-Fiction Companion Titles

- *Angel The Great Pyrenees* by LaVonna Moore
- *Great Pyrenees Complete Pet Owner's Manuals* by Joan Hustace Walker

## What to Read Next

- *Bailey's Story* by Bruce Cameron
- *Ellie's Story* by Bruce Cameron
- *White Fur Flying* by Patricia Maclachan

## Other Books by this Author

- *Book Fair Day* by Lynn Plourde
- *Science Fair Day* by Lynn Plourde
- *Thank You, Grandpa* by Lynn Plourde

## Additional Resources

- Listen to an audio book without looking at pictures
- Art/craft activity: Make dog biscuits - <http://www.dltk-holidays.com/xmas/recipes/dogbiscuits.htm>
- Art/craft activity: Make a standing dog, a dog mask out of a paper plate or origami dog.
- Dog Jokes: <http://www.kidspot.com.au/things-to-do/activities/jokes-for-kids-dogs>
- Interview with the author: <https://youtu.be/h03oI56qrbc>
- Lesson ideas: Research the meaning of names or the history of how people got their names.
- Lesson Ideas: Make fudge
- Lesson ideas: Have a parade
- Lesson Ideas: Walk with a partner - one person is blind-folded, switch