

The Pet War

By Allan Woodrow

Annotation

- Eleven-year-old Otto's desire for a dog turns into sibling rivalry when his older sister, Lexi, claims she wants a cat. Their mother wants neither. The competition is on after their mother gives them a challenge: whomever can earn \$500 in a month will get the pet of his or her choice. As the competition gets fiercer, the stakes get higher, and the battle lines have been drawn, so let the Pet War begin. . . .

Book Talk

- How many of you have or would like to have a DOG for a pet? How many of you have or would like to have a CAT for a pet? Can you imagine if you and one of your siblings wanted different animals, and the only way to get what you wanted was to raise \$500...faster than your brother or sister could raise \$500???

Otto just can't seem to work steadily to raise his money. He jumps from one idea to another and from one job to another, often getting himself into trouble. Meanwhile, his "perfect" sister Lexi appears to be on target to earn her \$500...or is she? *The Pet War* is a fun book, full of great dialogue and action that will have you cheering for one character or the other. It may depend on which animal YOU think makes the best pet!

Book Trailers

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Alji6kPhw9w>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W44YHyyVrx4>

Author on the Internet

- Website: <http://allanwoodrow.com/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/allan.woodrow?fref=ts>
- Twitter: @alwoodrow

Items to use in a library display

- Stuffed cat/dog realia
- Cat vs. Dog t-chart that students can comment on

Food

- Puppy chow snack mix: <http://www.food.com/recipe/puppy-chow-snack-mix-1035>
- Trader Joe's Chocolate Cat cookies:
<http://www.traderjoes.com/fearless-flyer/article/2190>

Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics

- Otto wants a dog and his sister Lexi wants a cat. What solution does their mother come up with to decide which pet the family will get? Does this seem fair to you? Why or why not? (Chapter 4)

- List 3 “jobs” Otto comes up with to earn money for a dog. If he did not stick with the job, explain why.
- Why might it be easier for Lexi to earn money?
- If you needed \$500, what would you do to earn the money?
- Can families make decisions that are fair to everyone? Why or why not.
- Lexi and Otto’s mother was surprised at how much money they raised. Do you think she wanted them to fail?

First Line of the Book:

- “I stood at the bottom of the driveway in my pajamas with a serious case of bed head.”

Non-Fiction Companion Title(s)

- *Children's Books: Cats and Dogs: Facts, Information and Beautiful Pictures about Cats and Dogs (Animal Books for Children 1) Kindle Edition* by [Francois Bissonnette](#)
- *National Geographic Readers: Cats vs. Dogs* by Elizabeth Carney

What to Read Next:

- [GUINEA DOG](#) by Patrick Jennings
- [ELVIS AND THE UNDERDOGS](#) by Jenny Lee
- [ONE DOG AND HIS BOY](#) by Eva Ibbotson
- *When Life Gives You O.J.* by Erica Pearl

Other Books by this Author:

- *The Rotten Adventures of Zachary Ruthless*
- *The Contagious Colors of Mumpley Middle School* (written under the pen name of Fowler DeWitt)
- *The Amazing Wilmer Dooley*
- *Lucky Dog*
- *Class Dismissed*

Additional Resources

- Poetry: Write a Haiku about your favorite kind of pet.
- Lesson ideas:
 - Pets: Taking Care of Your Pets
<http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/family/pets/article7.html> Geared toward kids. Discusses basic care of a pet as well as preparing to have a pet in the house.
 - Caring For Your Pet - American Humane Society
<http://www.americanhumane.org/animals/adoption-pet-care/caring-for-your-pet/> The American Humane Society’s guide to taking care of your pet, from basic care to more specific concerns such as microchipping, taking care of a sick animal, and travel with pets.
- Link to a Power Point on The Pet War:
<http://blogs.fcps.net/grigsbygt/files/2013/11/the-pet-wars-3-Lindy1.pdf>
- LIFE SKILLS: Responsibility, Effort, Commitment, Perseverance