

The Best Pet of All

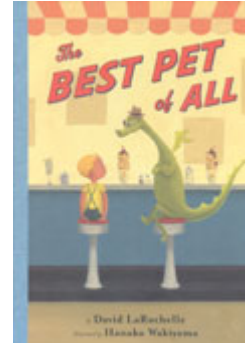
Based on the book by David LaRochelle

Illustrated by Hanako Wakiyama

Published by Dutton Children's Books, 2004

Adapted for Reader's Theatre by Julie Reimer

For non-profit, classroom use



Cast

Narrator 1 Boy
Narrator 2 Mother
Narrator 3

Narrator 1: On Monday I asked my mother if I could have a dog.

Boy: A dog is a good pet.

Mother: No. Dogs are too messy.

Narrator 2: On Tuesday I asked my mother if I could have a dog.

Boy: A dog is a very good pet.

Mother: No. Dogs are too loud.

Narrator 3: On Wednesday I asked my mother if I could have a dog.

Boy: A dog is the best pet of all.

Mother: No. NO DOGS!

Narrator 1: On Thursday I asked my mother if I could have a dragon.

Mother: A dragon? I have never heard of a dragon for a pet.

Narrator 1: She thought a bit.

Mother: If you can find a dragon, you can keep it for a pet.

Narrator 2: Dragons are not easy to find.

All Narrators: There were no dragons in the park. There were no dragons at the beach.
There were no dragons in the woods. There were no dragons at the zoo.

Boy: At last I found a dragon.

Narrator 3: This dragon was at the drugstore. He was wearing dark glasses and a hat.

Boy: I asked the dragon to come home with me.

All Narrators: The dragon said no.

Boy: You can sleep in my bed.

All Narrators: He still would not come.

Boy: You can play with my toys.

All Narrators: The dragon said yes.

Narrator 1: Dragons like to play with toys.

Narrator 2: But they do not like to put them away.

Narrator 3: They do not like to help with chores.

Mother: And they make a mess in the kitchen.

Narrator 1: They roast hot dogs in the living room.

Narrator 2: And they dance to loud music all night long.

Boy: My mother did not like this dragon.

Narrator 3: She asked the dragon to please leave.

Mother: The dragon would not go.

Boy: Then she told the dragon to leave now.

Mother: The dragon still would not go.

Boy: Finally my mother got angry.

Narrator 1: She stomped her foot. She told the dragon to leave this minute...

All: OR ELSE.

Mother: The dragon just shook his head. He went back to eating spaghetti in the bathtub.

Boy: Too bad we do not have a dog. Dragons do not like dogs.

Narrator 2: The dragon looked worried.

Boy: Dragons are afraid of dogs.

Narrator 3: The dragon began to shake.

Boy: A dog would chase the dragon away. The dragon ran to my toy box and jumped inside.

Mother: Maybe you are right. Maybe we need a dog.

Boy: I put a sign in the window: DOG WANTED.

All Narrators: Soon there was a knock at the door. It was a dog.

Mother: The dragon saw the dog.

All Narrators: He grabbed his hat and ran out the door.

Mother: Thank goodness we have a dog. A dog is a good pet.

Boy: My dog wagged its tail. Yes. A dog is the best pet of all.