

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Alejandro wanted a dog. He daydreamed about how fun it would be to run and play with a dog. They would camp out in the backyard and go on hikes together. He would teach his dogs all sorts of tricks, like how to sit, lie down, and stay. Alejandro asked his parents for a dog, but they said a dog would take too much work, and that Alejandro didn't understand what having a dog involved. This made Alejandro sad.

One day at the school library, Alejandro had an idea. He found a book on dogs and checked it out of the library. He read the whole book, learning as much as he could. He started talking to his friends who had dogs, and he asked them questions about dogs. They told him about how they had to feed, walk, bathe, and brush their dogs every day. Alejandro remembered all the information he got from the book and from his friends.

Every day, Alejandro talked to his parents about dogs. On the way to school, he told them how he would walk the dog before and after school every day. On the way home, he would tell them about different breeds of dogs and what kind would be best for their family, considering the size of their house and their schedules and everything. During dinner, he told them what he would feed his dog and how he would train it to behave.

Still, Alejandro's parents told him they didn't think he could take care of a dog. Alejandro had shown them he knew how much work was involved. He wondered what else he could do to prove that he could care for a dog.

Alejandro was generally a good boy, but he did sometimes get in trouble. He began to pay more attention when his parents scolded him. He got in trouble for forgetting to do his homework or putting it off so he could play longer. For a change, he began doing it as soon as he got home from school. His father got mad when he ate too many snacks before dinner. To show that he understood, Alejandro started eating only what and when he knew he was allowed. Previously, Alejandro's parents had gotten upset when he didn't do his chores or when he had to be reminded to do them. Alejandro now started doing his chores as soon as they needed to be done without being asked. Soon, Alejandro's parents hardly scolded him at all!

As Alejandro's parents came to understand that Alejandro knew what was involved in taking care of a dog, and they saw how well he was able to do what he was supposed to, they realized that maybe he could take care of a dog, after all.

Values

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

What value is reflected in this story?

Choose three values from the list below. Tell how **two** of them are **not** demonstrated in this story, and tell how **one** of them **is** demonstrated.

humor	pride	open-minded
responsibility	cheerfulness	generosity

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think the value reflected in this story is an important one?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture to illustrate this value:



Values

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Answers to RESPONSIBILITY:**

**Answers will vary and should reflect student understanding and ability. Answers should be discussed for clarity.**

**Answers to the first question may include some of the following ideas:**

Humor        There is nothing funny in this story to illustrate the value of humor.

Responsibility This is the story's main value. Alejandro had to show he was responsible by learning what would be involved in taking care of a dog, and by showing that he was able to take care of his responsibilities.

Pride        While Alejandro has a lot to be proud of in himself, that is not the main value illustrated in the story.

Cheerfulness Cheerfulness is not a value illustrated in the story—no one is particularly happy.

Open-minded While his parents showed an open mind later in the story when they realized that Alejandro could take care of a dog, it is not the main value in the story.

Generosity    Generosity is not illustrated in the value. There is no mention of giving out or kindness.

**Answers to the second question may include that responsibility makes a person seem trustworthy; responsibility will inspire a person to take care of everything that needs to be taken care of; responsibility will make sure tasks get done when and how they're supposed to be done; etc.**