

Firedog Martha

About the Story

Martha's dream has come true. She's going to be a fire dog. Maybe she will learn to slide down a fire pole and use a fire hose!

Special Words

fantasy: A *fantasy* is something you make up or imagine. A fantasy is not real.

real: Something that is *real* is true, not make-believe.

pretend: To *pretend* is to imagine or make something up.

actually: *Actually* means "really" or "truthfully"—something that is real actually happened.

Materials

Game: Tic-Tac-Talk

Book: _____

Reading Buddies Journal

Game pieces (5 in one color and 5 in a different color)

Watch Together: "Firedog Martha"

- Watch the show with your Little Buddy.
- Listen for the "special" words.
- Find a place where you and your Little Buddy can talk, play, and read together.

Talk and Play Together

Ask your Little Buddy:

- Martha thought fire dogs had to wear firefighter clothes. Was that **fantasy** or **real**?
- How did Martha **actually** help the firefighters?
- What was your favorite part of the story?

Game: Tic-Tac-Talk—Fantasy or Real?

This game is like Tic-Tac-Toe, but you play until all the spaces are filled.

There is no winner or loser.

1. Give your Little Buddy five game pieces of one color. Keep five game pieces of a different color for yourself.
2. Let your Little Buddy place a game piece on a picture. Ask your Little Buddy: *Is the picture **fantasy** or **real**?*
3. After your Little Buddy answers **fantasy** or **real**, ask, *Why?* Help your Little Buddy use the words **real**, **pretend**, or **actually** in his or her answer. For example: *Pigs don't **actually** fly. That's just **pretend**. Or **Real** kids can ride bikes.*
4. Now it's your turn to choose a picture. Your Little Buddy will ask you: *Is it **fantasy** or **real**? Why?* Use the word **real**, **pretend**, or **actually** in your answer.
5. Play the game until all the spaces are filled.

Before meeting with your Little Buddy, work with your Big Buddy partner to:

- Read and role-play the session plan.
- Play the Tic-Tac-Talk game.
- Read the selected book aloud. Ask and answer the questions.
- Review the *Journal* activity.

Read Together

Read the story aloud, then talk about it with your Little Buddy. This is a chance to use some of the special words from the MARTHA SPEAKS show. Ask:


- What was your favorite part of the story? What parts of the story were real and what parts were fantasy?
- Pretend that you were in this story. Which character would you want to be?
- Show me your favorite picture in the book. What do you like best about it?

Write Together

- Tell your Little Buddy it's time to write in the Reading Buddies Journal. Then explain that together you are going to think up two little stories. One will be **fantasy** and one will be **real**. Both stories start the same way:

One day I was walking down the street and I saw ...

- Let your Little Buddy think of something make-believe for the **fantasy** story and something everyday and ordinary for the **real** story.
- Write your Little Buddy's words in the *Journal*. If there is time, have your Little Buddy draw pictures to go with the stories.



It's my
fantasy
come true!