

Perfectly Martha

About the Story

Martha thinks there is something fishy about the Perfect Pup Institute. All of the dogs are acting perfectly perfect. What's wrong with them?

Special Words

obey: *Obey* means to do what you are told to do.

disobey: *Disobey* means to *not* do what you are told. *Disobey* is the opposite of *obey*.

obedient: If you are *obedient*, you do what you are told.

disobedient: If you are *disobedient*, you *don't* do what you are told. *Disobedient* is the opposite of *obedient*.

Materials

Game: Skits's Tricks (This online game is on the MARTHA SPEAKS Web site at pbskids.org/martha.)

Book: _____

Reading Buddies Journal

Pencils, markers

Watch Together: "Perfectly 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

Talk about these questions with your Little Buddy. Share your ideas, too.

- *What was your favorite part of the story?*
- *Why did the dogs in the Perfect Pup Institute **obey** so perfectly?*
- *Do you think you would like to have a totally **obedient** dog? Why or why not?*

Game: Skits's Tricks

Go to pbskids.org/martha and click on Games. Then click on the blue, white, and red ball. This will take you to Skits's Tricks, where you can help Skits retrieve a ball, climb a ramp, find a sock, and more!

Click play to begin. As you play, you'll learn some new words, such as *retrieve* and *catch*. You can also use some of the special words from this session with your buddy. Ask, *Is Skits an **obedient** dog? Can he **retrieve** a ball? Did Skits **obey** our directions?* If you do not have a computer, do the *Reading Buddies Journal* activity now, instead of the game.

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

- Read and role-play the session plan.
- Read the selected book aloud. Ask and answer the questions.
- If a computer is not available you can do just the *Reading Buddies Journal* activity instead or check with your teacher.
- Review the *Journal* activity.

Sometimes it's hard to be obedient.



Read Together

Read the story aloud. Use the words from the *MARTHA SPEAKS* show as you talk about these questions with your Little Buddy:

- Was there a character in this book who was disobedient? Describe what he or she did.
- Do you think this character will be obedient in the future? Why or why not?
- Show me your favorite picture in the book. What do you like best about it?

Write Together

- Read the directions in the Reading Buddies Journal to your Little Buddy. Read the beginning of the first journal entry: *Today, I was a **disobedient** dog. This is what I did.*
- Say to your Little Buddy: **Pretend** you are Martha. What did you do today that was **disobedient**?
- Write your Little Buddy's words on the lines.
- Read the beginning of the second journal entry: *Tomorrow, I will be an **obedient** dog. This is what I will do.*
- Say to your Little Buddy: **Pretend** you are Martha. What will you do tomorrow to show that you are an **obedient** dog?
- Write your Little Buddy's words on the lines.

