

Unit 4 - Manny the Dog

attentive / blossom / communicate / distress / meadow / peculiar / recognize / shabby / tidy / vacant

4A Introduction

Dogs can do some amazing things. One real-life dog in Texas named Skidboot could answer the phone, lead horses around on a leash, and would obey nearly every command. Because he was so remarkable, Skidboot went on lots of TV shows and won lots of competitions. The dog in this song isn't Skidboot. His name is Manny. But he has a special talent of his own.

4B Song Lyrics

One day on my way home from school,
I was alone on the street, and the breeze was cool.
Yeah, dudes, but then I heard a little bark, y'all,
Looked down and there was a little dark dog.
He was looking **shabby**, showing signs of wear,
Like he lived in the street and nobody cared.
Now I don't just pick up dogs off the street,
So I kept walking home to find something to eat.
But he kept jumping around like a leap frog,
Barking at me, I said, "Sorry, buddy, I don't speak dog."
We couldn't **communicate**, understand each other,
'Cause I'm a human, and he's a dog—you feel me?
But then I realized my mom's gonna kill me!
I left my black backpack back at the snack shack,
I had to be home; I don't have enough time to get it,
I better hustle home now and forget it.
Then I was in **distress**, feeling pain and nervousness,
Because, I mean, what would happen next?
So I went to my house, and no, the dog didn't,
And my mom yelled at me for 15 minutes.
After 15 minutes, we heard a little "bark"
From the front door, and it was getting kind of dark.
We opened up the door and what did we see?
The dog with my backpack in his teeth!



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*Ain't nothing better, than my dog,
 'Cause my dog's smarter than I ever thought.
 My dog's so clever,
 Rocking super dog powers like a barking Jack Bauer.
 Oh Manny, Manny's got the plan
 Oh Manny, Manny, you the man.*

Now Manny was even better than a nanny,
 He could understand me and he was part of the family.
 Yeah, Manny was **peculiar**, strange and odd,
 'Cause he could understand me when I talked.
 He always paid attention, was **attentive**,
 Like one day I was chilling with my friend Kiv.
 I told Kiv, "Man, I wish we had a tree house in the park,
 Where we could, like, spy on people..."
 Then Manny started to bark.
 He bit my shirt a little bit and he pulled on my arm.
 We followed him to the park; it was big,
 There was a **meadow**, the grass where the sheep used to live.
 It was springtime and the park was awesome,
 All the flowers had started to grow and **blossom**,
 And all the blossoms were looking totally awesome.
 I saw a squirrel; Kiv thought it was a possum.
 Manny kept leading us into the park,
 Past the big stone that was shaped like a heart,
 To a part of the park I didn't **recognize**,
 Or know from before; I couldn't believe my eyes.
 And Kiv started to scream and shout,
 'Cause right up above us was a big tree house!
 The kid was really good at climbing trees,
 And when he got to the top he dropped a rope for me.
 There was no one in the tree house; it was **vacant**,
 It was kind of messy and it smelled like bacon.
 But hey, man, Kiv and I, we made it **tidy**,
 Yea, we cleaned it up nice, and we made it shiny.
 Now it's where we go to spy on the people below,
 Or share a secret that we didn't even know.
 So, yes, I have a tree house in the park,
 Plus a dog named Manny who is super smart.

Hook

Name: _____ Date: _____

4C Words Defined

attentive / blossom / communicate / distress / meadow / peculiar / recognize / shabby / tidy / vacant

attentive

(adj) Paying attention; thoughtful and polite. *I like my dad; he's very **attentive** to my needs.*

blossom

(noun) A flower. *The **blossoms** on the apple tree were bright white.*

(verb) 1. To make flowers. *After many months, my plant finally **blossomed**.* 2. To develop; to become better. *Vlad's painting skills **blossomed** as he got older.*



communicate

(verb) To make known; to give or exchange information. *Thanks to computers and cell phones, there are now lots of different ways to **communicate**.*

distress

(noun) 1. Deep worry or suffering. *Sharon felt a lot of **distress** over losing her pet ferret.*
2. Being in danger or in trouble. *The plane caught fire and was in **distress**.*

(verb) To trouble or upset; to cause worry or stress. *I'm **distressed** by how many people litter on the playground.*

meadow

(noun) A field of grass or wildflowers. *The dog dreamed he was running through a **meadow** chasing hamburgers.*

peculiar

(adj) Not like the normal or usual; odd or curious. *When Wendy said, "Hello, earthlings, Wendy am I," we knew she had a **peculiar** way of speaking.*

recognize

(verb) To know and remember upon seeing. *My older brother Mike had been gone so long at college I hardly **recognized** him.*

shabby

(adj) 1. Worn or faded from use or wear. *Ms. Palmer was wearing a **shabby** coat that looked like it was 20 years old.* 2. Not fair or generous. *You took my Elf DVD without asking? That's a **shabby** thing to do to a friend.*

Name: _____ Date: _____

tidy

(adj) Neat, clean, and in good order. *My mom always says, "Keep your room **tidy** and your mind will be free."*

vacant

(adj) Not used, filled, or lived in. *There were no **vacant** seats on the train, so we had to stand all the way to the zoo.*

**tidy**

Name: _____ Date: _____

4D Synonyms

Circle the word on the right that matches the meaning of the word or phrase on the left

attentive / blossom / communicate / distress / meadow / peculiar / recognize / shabby / tidy / vacant

1. worn out

2. a grassy field

3. to talk

4. to know

5. a flower

tidy

blossom

distress

recognize

meadow

shabby

distress

recognize

tidy

blossom

vacant

meadow

communicate

blossom

distress

Name: _____ Date: _____

4E Fill in the Blank

Write the word in the blank so that the sentence makes sense.

attentive / blossom / communicate / distress / meadow / peculiar / recognize / shabby / tidy / vacant

1. The monster was _____ when he heard the villagers were planning to attack him.

vacant

distressed

tidy

2. Martha is so _____ that she even cleans my room when she comes over to play!

tidy

vacant

shabby

3. You should be _____ to your pets, because they need a lot of love and care.

shabby

attentive

vacant

4. The house looks _____, but some people think it is filled with ghosts.

vacant

attentive

peculiar

5. Antoine is very _____ sometimes. He came to school today wearing his underwear outside of his pants!

attentive

peculiar

tidy

Name: _____ Date: _____

4F Connections

Each sentence has a strong connection with one of the words from the unit. Write the correct word on the line below.

attentive / blossom / communicate / distress / meadow / peculiar / recognize / shabby / tidy / vacant

1. The lot at the end of my block is overgrown and unused.

2. I must say, it seems very strange that your dog knows how to read.

3. I listened closely to the song so I could memorize the words.

4. The tall, grassy field behind my house is a nice place to sit and watch the sunset.

5. My cactus is growing a flower! I didn't even know it could do that!

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4G Applying Meanings

Circle the letter that makes sense or answers the question.

attentive / blossom / communicate / distress / meadow / peculiar / recognize / shabby / tidy / vacant

1. Which is the most **peculiar** hair color?
(A) brown
(B) blond
(C) purple
(D) red

2. Where would you most likely find a **shabby** couch?
(A) at a garage sale
(B) at the White House
(C) at a fancy furniture store
(D) at a toy store

3. Which of these would most likely be used to **communicate**?
(A) a delivery truck
(B) a fireplace
(C) a cereal box
(D) a telephone

4. What kind of animal might live in a **meadow**?
(A) a monkey
(B) a rabbit
(C) a crocodile
(D) a whale

5. A shy child who **blossomed** would probably
(A) learn how to be more social
(B) stop talking to people
(C) have to go to the doctor
(D) lose all of her friends

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4H Reading

Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow.

attentive / blossom / communicate / distress / meadow / peculiar / recognize / shabby / tidy / vacant

The Amazing Helen Keller

When Annie Sullivan arrived in Alabama, she did not know what to expect. She had been hired to teach a girl named Helen Keller. When Helen was 19 months old, she had come down with a **peculiar** disease. The disease left her unable to hear, see, or talk. Now, she was seven years old.

Ms. Sullivan's job was to teach Helen how to **communicate**. As soon as she arrived, Ms. Sullivan got to work. She gave Helen a doll and taught her how to spell the word doll in sign language. Helen made the same motions with her fingers as Ms. Sullivan. But she did not yet **recognize** that she was making letters with her fingers.

Their first month together was filled with much **distress**. Helen behaved very badly. Her parents did not know how to control her, because they could not talk to her. No one even knew if Helen was smart enough to understand language.

One day, Helen and Ms. Sullivan got into a fight. Ms. Sullivan was trying to teach Helen the word water. Helen kept confusing the word mug with the word water. Finally, Ms. Sullivan took Helen outside to a water pump. As the water flowed over Helen's hands, Ms. Sullivan spelled water again in sign language. Helen was very **attentive**. Then, she got excited: She finally understood! She spent the rest of the day learning the names of everything in her world.

After that day, Helen **blossomed**. She learned how to read Braille, which is a kind of writing for people who cannot see. But she didn't just learn English; she also learned French, German, Greek, and Latin. She became the first deaf and blind person to graduate from college. She became famous all around the world as a writer and a speaker. And just think: If it weren't for Annie Sullivan, she might not have ever been given a chance to learn.



Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Why couldn't Helen Keller hear, see, or talk?

2. What was the first word Ms. Sullivan tried to teach Helen?

3. Why didn't Helen's parents teach her how to behave?

4. Why did Helen get excited when she felt the water from the water pump?

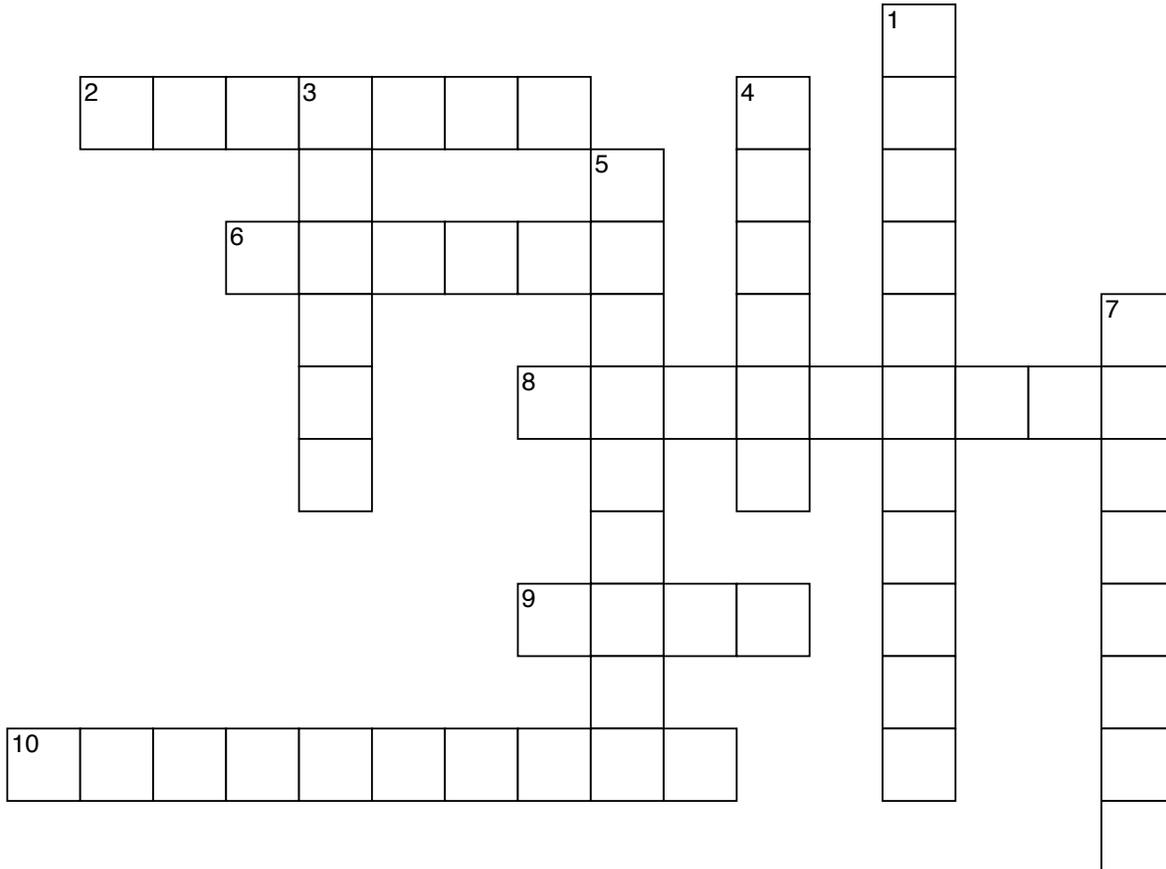
5. What languages did Helen understand?

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Bonus: Crossword Puzzle

Solve this crossword puzzle. Note: Some answers may be different forms of the vocab words from this unit.

attentive / blossom / communicate / distress / meadow / peculiar / recognize / shabby / tidy / vacant



ACROSS

- 2 To become better.
- 6 Nothing had been built on the _____ lot.
- 8 Do you _____ the girl in this picture? Give up? It's me!
- 9 Please _____ up the kitchen when I am gone. When I return, I don't want to see a single spot!
- 10 Trevor gets _____ when he gets an A-. He's so worried about his grades!

DOWN

- 1 It's difficult to _____ with people who speak a different language than you.
- 3 Ick, this _____ old chair smells like smoke!
- 4 Where wildflowers might be found.
- 5 Be _____ when the principal is talking to you!
- 7 Strange.