

KIDS BOOK CLUB

August 2019 Selection

***Ellie's Story: A Dog's Purpose Puppy Tale* by W. Bruce Cameron**

Ellie is a very special dog with a very important purpose. From puppyhood, Ellie has been trained as a search-and-rescue dog. She can track down a lost child in a forest or an injured victim under a fallen building. She finds people. She saves them. It's what she was meant to do.

But Ellie must do more. Her handlers—widowed Jakob, lonely Maya—need her too. People can be lost in many ways, and to do the job she was born to do, Ellie needs to find a way to save the people she loves best.

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Discussion Questions:

1. Who narrates Ellie's Story? Were you surprised when you realized the identity of the narrator? Why or why not?
2. In Chapter One, Jakob chooses Ellie from a litter of German Shepherds. What are some of the key qualities he appreciates in her?
3. Have you ever tried to train a dog or other pet? If so, what was the most surprising or challenging thing you learned about this process? If not, would you like to try dog training?
4. What is "Work" to Ellie? Describe the steps Jakob takes to teach Ellie to understand "Work" and, later, "Find." How is "Play" important to Ellie's training process? Is play important for people, too?



5. What actions does Ellie take in the story that show she is an extraordinary rescue dog?
6. Why does Ellie have to leave Jakob and go to live with Maya? How does she react to this transition? How is Ellie's understanding of the change similar to, and different from, the way a human understands such events?
7. What challenges does Maya face as she works to become Ellie's handler?
8. Ellie describes the different ways she is loved by Jakob, Maya, and other characters. Do these descriptions help to better understand the relationships your dog (or dogs you know) has with you and other members of your community?

Review or Comment about this book:

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Recommendations:

- If you liked *Ellie's Story*, you might like *Endling: The Last* (<https://www.booksamillion.com/p/9780062335524>)
- You might also enjoy *Molly's Story* (<https://www.booksamillion.com/p/9780765394934>)