

Miracle Dogs of Portugal: Teaching Tools

Miracle Dogs of Portugal is the first in the "Miracle Dog" series of historical fiction books that explain the periods and characters of world history using dogs as the ambassador to learning. The miracle dog series is appropriate for children ages 5-10. Though the stories are fiction, the historical accuracy and context is designed to give children both the framework and the motivation to seek out more information about the character and the period in which the story is set. Next up...Miracle Dogs of the Missouri, the almost true story of Meriwether Lewis.

Columbus Day and The Age of Exploration. *Miracle Dogs of Portugal* is the 'almost-true' story of Henry the Navigator, the father of Portuguese and Spanish exploration. Using Milagro, the dog that saved Henry's life, as the ambassador to learning, the historical accuracy and context of *Miracle Dogs of Portugal* will inspire children to seek out more information about the "Age of Exploration."

Portuguese Water Dogs. Always fascinated by dog breeds, through Milagro children can explore the First Family, as Bo Obama, the "first pooch" is of the Portuguese Water Dog breed.

Narrative Fiction. The book follows the classic arc of narrative fiction (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and denouement) and is written as a porquoi in the vein of Rudyard Kipling's *Just So Stories*. Children can easily identify the elements of narrative fiction, conflict, with a likable protagonist written to inspire their own journeys.

Alliteration. Each morning when he awakes, Henry throws the windows of his room wide open and greets his best friend, the sea. The sea always greets Henry with "Sssccuuush, sssccuuush," which meant, "Good morning to you, my friend" in the way the sea spoke. Examples of alliteration appear throughout *Miracle Dogs of Portugal*.

The Portuguese language. Portuguese phrases such as "Bom dia meu amigo!" are scattered throughout *Miracle Dogs of Portugal*, inspiring children to pursue other languages and to provide children with an understanding of the history and culture of countries of the world.

Author Presentations

As a former elementary school teacher, Tracy loves to tell her stories to children of all ages, and she loves to inspire children to write their own stories. Her presentation topics can be catered to grades K-5 and include:

- The elements of narrative fiction with interactive activities that inspire children to write.
- Her own inspirations and writing techniques.
- Reading of *Miracle Dogs of Portugal*, with question and answer.
- Possible appearances by a real live Miracle Dog!

Presentations usually span 40 minutes with 10 minutes of question and answer and can be directed to small or large groups. Tracy has addressed groups as large as 200 children and parents or as small as a classroom of 10-12 children.

For more information go to www.centerreachcommunication.com or www.miracledogsoftheworld.com or email tracy@centerreachcommunication.com