Story Time: Years 3&4



Black Dog by Levi Pinfold



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Book Summary from Lovereading4kids

A black dog appears outside the Hope family's home. As each member of the household sees it and hides, the dog grows bigger and bigger. Only Small, the youngest Hope, has the courage to face the Black Dog. When it chases her through the forest she shows no fear, so it grows smaller and smaller. Finally, back to the size of a normal hound, the Black Dog is welcomed into the Hope household as their newest addition.

Discussion Prompts

At the start of the story:

- 1. Look carefully at the illustrations and you'll notice the black dog gets bigger and bigger. Why do you think that is?
- 2. Do you think this is ONLY a story about a dog that gets bigger? Or is Levi Pinfold trying to tell us something else? Is there a message in this story?

At the end of the story:

- 1. Why do you think the dog gets smaller when the child starts playing with it?
- 2. What scares you?
- 3. What does it mean to be brave? Have you ever done something brave?
- 4. Have you ever been scared of something and had to face your fear? What happened? Was the scary thing as bad as you thought it would be?