



Mac's Big Wish by

Oregon Author **Peter Vanderwall** and Oregon Illustrator **Janis Lillian**
Nominated by the Oregon State Literacy Association for the
Patricia Gallagher **Children's Choice Picture Book Award**

Grade 4 Extension Activity

Reference to Oregon English Language Arts and Literacy Standards, Grade 4.

Classroom Organization:

Students individually read *Mac's Big Wish*, and then in a small group discuss the story. Discussion prompts: Who are the characters in *Mac's Big Wish*? Who are the five main characters? Explain how the character "Mac" changes from the beginning until the end of the story?

Standards Addressed:

4.RL.2 Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.

4.W.1 Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

Background:

Puppy Mac grows up in a **pet rescue** and Adult Mac becomes a **therapy dog**.

Literary Vocabulary:

An **opinion** is what you think and feel about something.

When you **summarize**: You make your summary shorter than the text. Use your own words. Include main events and details of the story.

Writing Prompts: Interpret the emotions from the illustrations in *Mac's Big Wish* to (a) defend your opinion in prompt, and (b) summarize:

(a) In your opinion, which characters encourage Puppy Mac to be hopeful that someone will adopt him?

(4 or more sentences. Cite examples from the text.)

(b) Summarize Mac's inner feelings as he transitions from a puppy in a **pet rescue** to a **therapy dog** in a care center.

(4 or more sentences. Cite examples from the text.)

