The Buddy Files: The Case of the Lost Boy by Dori Hillestad Butler

Recommended for grades 1 to 2

Summary: A golden retriever named King finds himself at the pound after his family doesn’t pick him up at the kennel. Things begin to look better when he is adopted by people whose house happens to be in the same neighborhood at his former family. King (now named Buddy) is determined to solve the mystery of the disappearance of his family. Unfortunately, when his new boy, Connor, goes missing, King/Buddy must first help his new family solve that mystery.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is a mystery? What is a detective?
2. Who has a pet? Are your pets similar to Buddy in any ways? Would your pets make good detectives?
3. How does the dog’s name go from being King to Buddy? Which do you like better?
4. How are Buddy and Connor alike? How are they different?
5. There are some suspenseful moments in this book. How did that make you feel?
6. Who do you think Buddy belongs to: Connor or Kayla? Why?

Further Resources:

Visit Dori Hillestad Butler’s website: https://dar.to/2rVhJjH
Learn about therapy dogs: https://dar.to/333eeVn

Activities:

1. Draw a map of Buddy’s neighborhood.
2. As a group, act out your favorite part of the book.
3. Pretend you’re a dog. Without using words, trying to explain that:
   o You need to be walked.
   o It’s dinner time!
   o You want to chase a squirrel.