

The Neglected Puppy

Roles



Becca



Mom



Vet



Narrator

Narrator

Becca was outdoors playing one day when she heard a whimper.

She put down her soccer ball and followed the source of the sound. Under one of the bushes in her backyard, she found a scrawny puppy.

She scratched his head, and he licked her hand. His two front legs were malformed, and he couldn't walk very well. She picked him up and took him inside her house.

Becca

Mom, look! I found this puppy. Can we keep him?

Narrator

Her mom came out of the kitchen.

Mom

Oh dear. Where did you find him?

Becca

He was under a bush in our backyard.

Mom	He looks very malnourished, and there are scratches on his back. He may have been maltreated
Becca	Please, Mom. I think he just needs love!
Mom	We can try taking him in, Becca, but I don't promise we'll keep him, especially if he displays some maladjusted behaviors like biting and barking all the time. Sometimes, when animals have been maltreated, they have a hard time living with a family. Until we find out, I want you to keep him away from your baby brother.
Becca	Okay, Mom. I understand. Can I give him a bath outdoors?
Mom	Yes, and tomorrow we'll take him to the vet and see what she says about his legs. While you're bathing him, I'll go to the store and buy something for him to eat.
Narrator	That night, they fed him and put him in a box with some soft towels so he could sleep. Becca heard him whimpering throughout the night and got up to check on him several times.
Becca	I'm going to name you Rusty because of your orange fur. Everything is going to be okay now. You'll see.
Narrator	The next morning, Becca's dad drove her and Rusty to the vet. The vet looked at the puppy's malformed front legs and shook her head in disapproval. Becca told the vet how she had found Rusty.

Vet	I'm afraid this dog has been suffering from extreme malnutrition. A lack of calcium has caused his front legs to bend strangely. I'm going to put splints on his legs and give you precise instructions on what to feed him over the next few months. There are also some bruises under his fur. I'm afraid he's been subjected to malicious treatment.
Becca	Why would someone do that? Harm a helpless puppy?
Narrator	Becca gently rubbed Rusty's head. Tears welled up in her eyes as she thought about Rusty being mistreated.
Vet	I don't know, Becca. Some people are malcontents. They are unhappy with themselves or their lives, and they take it out on their pets. That's one of the reasons I became a vet. I want to ensure that all animals are healthy and happy.
Becca	Will his legs heal up?
Vet	There's a good chance that they will. They're malfunctioning now due to their awkward position. But if you keep him wearing those splints until he's properly nourished, the malpositioning will more than likely right itself. Then he'll be able to run around like a normal puppy.
Narrator	Over the next few months, Becca and her family took care of Rusty, and he started to heal. He wasn't scrawny anymore. His legs had realigned and were functioning properly. His fur was soft and shiny. Becca's mom trusted him and even let him play around Becca's little brother.

Narrator	When they took Rusty back to the vet a few months later, the vet was astonished.
Vet	This doesn't even look like the same dog! It's amazing what love can do.

Is It an Insect?



Narrator	Kyrie was fascinated by insects. He watched bees and butterflies fly from flower to flower. He watched ants crawling on the pavement. He would go outdoors to hunt for them in the driveway or in his backyard. Then, he would put them in jars and bring them back into the house to show them to his older brother, Zayden. One day, he caught something very large. He had never seen anything quite like it before. He quickly put it in a jar and brought it to Zayden.
	Look what I caught! Is it an insect?
Zayden	Yes! It sure is. It's a type of beetle.
Kyrie	How do you know it's an insect?
Zayden	Well, there are some things that all insects have. Look carefully. Can you see the three different segments of this beetle's body?

Narrator	Kyrie nodded his head yes.
Zayden	It has a head, a midsection, which is called the thorax, and an abdomen.
Kyrie	Do all insects have these three segments?
Zayden	Yes, all of them do.
Kyrie	Are you sure? I don't think butterflies have them.
Zayden	Next time you capture a butterfly, I'll show you that they do. If you look below their wings, they have a long, slender body that has three segments.
Narrator	Kyrie thought for a few seconds.
Kyrie	I caught a big spider the other day. Mom wasn't too happy because I brought it into the house. She doesn't like spiders. I didn't think the spider's body had three segments.
Zayden	You're right. It doesn't. That's because a spider isn't an insect. All insects have six legs, and a spider has eight legs. I want to show you something really cool. Watch me for a few minutes.
Kyrie	OK.

Morphology Reader's Theater

Latin Concept 29: sec(t)

Narrator	Zayden took out his compass and drew a circle.
Kyrie	Are you drawing an insect?
Zayden	No, just wait and see.
Narrator	He took a protractor from his desk drawer and used it to divide the circle into five equal sections.
Zayden	Now, what do you see?
Narrator	Kyrie looked at the circle.
Kyrie	It's a circle graph with five different equal parts. All the lines intersect in the center. We did these in math class.
Zayden	Right! Now I want you to imagine all the animals on Earth. There are elephants, giraffes, dogs, cats, dolphins, every type of animal you can think of, including people, and all different types of insects. Now, imagine you had to show me how much of this circle represents the total number of all the insects in the entire world compared to the number of all the other animals. Let's use this green crayon. How many of these five segments would you fill in with green?
Kyrie	I don't know. There are so many different types of animals.
Zayden	Why don't you start filling it in, and then I'll tell you when to stop.

Narrator	Kyrie set the jar down and took the crayon in his hand. He filled in one of the five sections of the circle with green and then looked up to see if that was enough.
Zayden	Not enough.
Narrator	Then he filled in the second section and looked up.
Zayden	Still not enough.
Narrator	Kyrie's eyes went wide. Then he filled in the third section, but he could tell by the look on Zayden's face that it still wasn't enough. He filled in the fourth section.
Zayden	That's correct! You've already studied fractions, so tell me how many of the animals on Earth are insects.
Kyrie	Well, four of the five sections are filled, so that means four-fifths of the animals on Earth are insects. How can that be right?
Zayden	I know it seems like a lot, but it is right.
Kyrie	Wow! No wonder I can find so many insects in the backyard.
Zayden	Yes! It says online that scientists think at any time there are as many as 10 quintillion insects on Earth. If you wrote out that number, it would be 10 with 18 zeroes after it- 10,000,000,000,000,000,000.

Kyrie	If I find something else unusual, will you help me figure out whether it's an insect or not?
Zayden	Sure, but remember you can do it yourself. Insects have three segments and six legs, and they do need air. Which reminds me, you'd better put that beetle back outside so it can breathe.
Narrator	I'll do it right now.