Let's Look ...

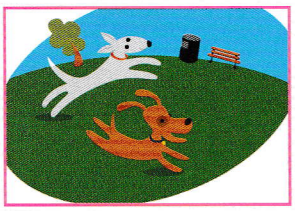
STORY

'Toto and Marley'

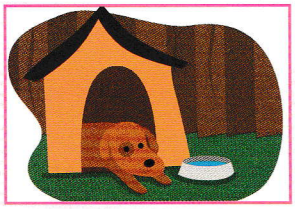
Begin by telling the children that you would like to tell them a story about two dogs, one called Toto and one called Marley. Then read the story, 'Toto and Marley'.

ONLINE

'Toto and Marley'

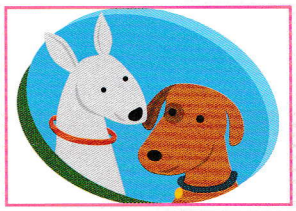


Toto and Marley met in the park every day at noon when they were being taken out for a walk. The two dogs looked forward to being let off their leads by their owners so that they could play together. They were great friends. When the time would come for them to go back home, they'd leave each other's company feeling sad. As time went on, they weren't just sad saying goodbye to each other, they began to get a little angry. 'I'm so fed up of this,' barked Toto. 'Me too!' said Marley. 'We have to come and go when our owners say so. I just want to play here with you. I don't want to go home now!'



One time when his owner was away, Toto was put into kennels and he missed his daily visits to the park to meet up with Marley. Marley wondered where Toto was. Finally, when they got to see each other again, Toto barked, 'I've had enough! What do you think of the two of us running off together today? We could do what we want, when we want, and everything will be just great. We don't need our owners at all! What do you think?' Marley barked back. 'That's the best idea ever! You're right! We don't need them! Let's do it!' So when their owners weren't looking, the pair of dogs ran off, out of the park, down the road, past the shops, across the railway tracks until they found a good hiding place.

It was fun at first for the two dogs, but then they grew hungry. 'My belly aches. I'm so hungry!' said Marley. 'Me too!' said Toto. By the time darkness fell the two dogs were beginning to regret running off. 'I miss home!' said Toto. 'Me too!' said Marley. They lay down and chatted to each other about all of the things they missed about home. They realised that they really needed their owners. They decided that they would go back to the park the next day and hoped that they would meet their owners there.



The next day, Marley and Toto went back to the park, just as they had planned. When they got there, they got the most wonderful surprise. Their owners were right there, looking for them, and asking people if they had seen them. 'We miss our dogs,' the owners said. 'We're lonely without them. We have no one to play with when we get home from work, and no one to lie on our laps when we're watching TV. Without Toto and Marley, things just aren't as much fun. We need those little guys!'

'Woof!' said Marley. 'Woof, woof!' said Toto. They were lonely without their owners too.

So, Toto, Marley and their owners were reunited, and they all lived a long, happy life together.

Having read the story, check for understanding using questions such as, 'Where did the two dogs meet?' Then dig deeper using these or similar questions:

- Do you think the dogs were right to run away? Do you think their owners treated them unfairly? Why or why not?
- Why do you think the dogs missed their owners? How do you think the two owners felt when they realised their dogs were gone?
- Do you have any animals that you care for? In what ways do you care for them? Who do you think is luckier – them or you – or are you both lucky to have each other?