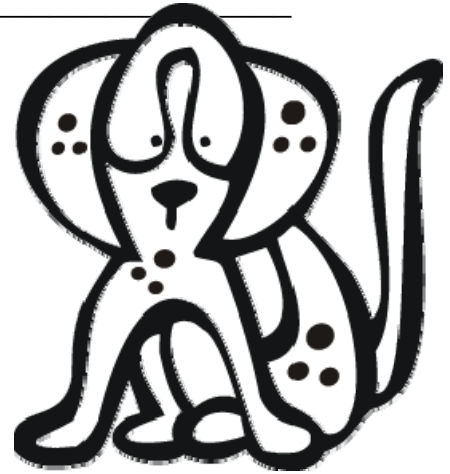


Name: _____

Date: _____

Identifying Theme:

Directions: read each short story and determine the theme or message in the story. Remember that a good answer will focus on big world lessons, not small world details of the story.



Sarah and Razzle

Sarah's mother was so sick of Sarah's complaining that she finally took her to their animal shelter to adopt a pet. The fifteen minute car ride across town was full of rules that Sarah was sure would be broken within the first twenty-four hours.

"I know, mom," she mocked, "No dogs allowed in the house. If I get a dog, he has to stay in the garage. Cats don't belong on the furniture. If I get a cat, she has to stay off of your new sofa and can't sleep on the table."

The animal shelter was a busy place. When Sarah opened the front door, there were dogs, cats, and rabbits all over the lobby. A golden lab was sleeping behind the receptionist's desk. There was a cat tree in the corner by the window that was crawling with tan and orange colored kittens. A little dwarf rabbit was playfully batting at a larger cat in another corner of the room. There was even a small goat being bottle-fed by one of the volunteers.

Sarah walked down the hallway where they kept all of the cats. There were so many cages stacked on top of each other. Every cage had a piece of paper with the cat's age, name, and gender. Sarah looked into every cage, pet the cat, and imagined what it would be like to have each cat as a pet. After greeting every cat in the room, she left and went to the hallway where the dog kennels were kept.

Her first stop was at the kennel of an American Husky pup. He was fluffy and had gorgeous blue eyes. Sarah then looked at a black Labrador, a chocolate colored Chow-Chow, a fluffy white Samoyed, and a small Terrier.

There were several mutt dogs that were just as adorable as the purebred pups. This was going to be a difficult decision. Picking out a puppy was such a huge responsibility.

Name: _____

Date: _____

“Let’s get this one,” Sarah said to her mom as she pointed at a small, fluffy ball of golden fur in a kennel next to the door.

Sarah’s mom found a volunteer to unlock the kennel so they could hold the puppy. He was barely old enough to be separated from his mother and his golden fur had a few tangles, but he was a snuggly little puppy. Sarah decided to name him Razzle.

What is the theme of this story?

What happens in the story that leads you to believe this?
