

Saying Goodbye to Barkley

By Devon Sillett & Illustrated by Nicky Johnston

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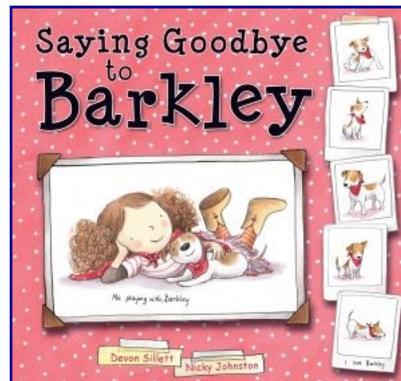
**Picture Book of
the Month**

Olivia and her dog Barkley are inseparable.

He's her sidekick, her partner in crime-fighting - they're the perfect pair. But then, Barkley dies and Olivia is heartbroken. She dreads falling asleep because waking up without Barkley is just too sad. Gradually, however, she realises that Barkley wouldn't want her to be unhappy for the rest of her life.

So she thinks of a way that she can not only get her own happiness back, but also give happiness to another animal, by adopting a new dog from an animal shelter. And so Spud joins the family.

Spud is a terrible sidekick and crime-fighter - she wants to play with the bad guys not catch them! In fact, Spud couldn't be less like Barkley, but Olivia grows to love her very much because she's just as special in her own way.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Friendship
- Grief
- Loss
- Resilience
- Recovery
- Family
- Pets
- Love
- Animals
- Coping

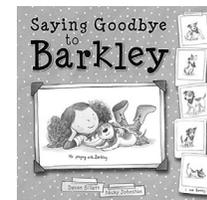
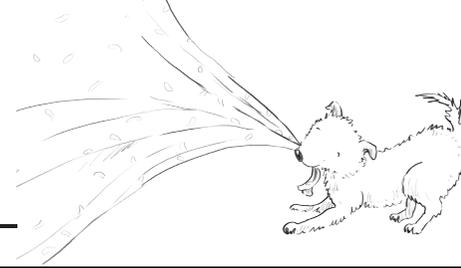
Discussion Questions and Activities:

- What sorts of words might describe how Olivia feels in the beginning of the story?
- How did she feel when Barkley became unwell and was no longer able to accompany her on her crime-fighting adventures?
- How does Olivia feel at the conclusion of the story?
- What do you think happened to Barkley? Why does he stop playing with Olivia?
- Why can't Olivia eat or sleep?
- Have you ever experienced grief or loss like Olivia?
- If yes, what sorts of feelings did you have? Did your feelings change the way you behaved? Did they make some things harder to do?
- Did someone or some people help you to cope? If yes, who helped you and how did they help to make you feel better?
- Imagine that you are Olivia's mum. What do you think she is feeling when she sees the effect Barkley's situation has on Olivia?
- What does Olivia's mum mean when she tells Olivia that she should 'get on with things'?
- Is Spud a replacement dog for Barkley? Why or why not?
- Do you like how the story ends? Why or why not? If not, what would you change about the ending?
- Why do you think Olivia and her mother chose to adopt a pet from a shelter instead of a puppy from a pet shop? Can you think of some of the benefits that accompany this decision?
- Enjoy using the four activity sheets attached to explore and expand on the ideas in the story.

BOOK REVIEW



by _____



Devon Sillet & Nicky Johnston

Did you enjoy the book?
Score it out of 5 dogs.



What happened in the story?

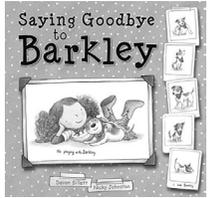
Who are the characters?

What are the settings?

Draw Barkley

ALTERNATE STORY

by _____



Devon Sillet & Nicky Johnston

Did you enjoy the book?
Score it out of 5 dogs.



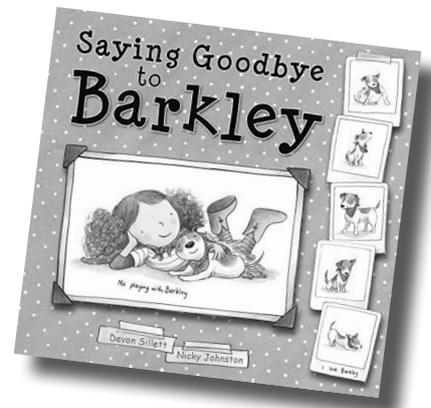
Imagine Olivia had a different pet. What pet would you choose?

What things would they do together?

What would the settings be?

Draw Olivia's different pet

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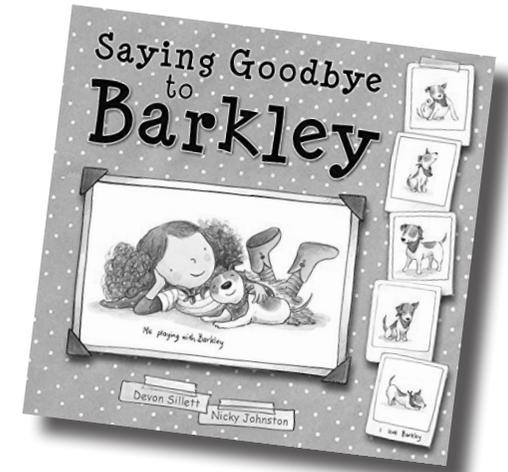
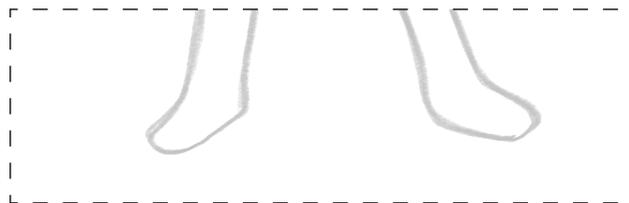
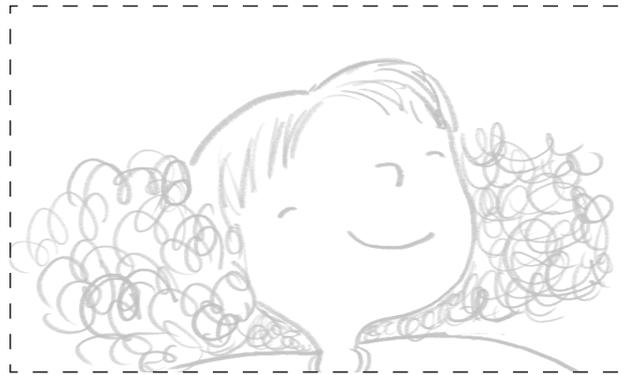


Write a Letter to Barkley

A large, hand-drawn rectangular box with a jagged top edge, intended for writing a letter to Barkley. The box is mostly empty, with some faint, light-colored scribbles at the bottom corners.

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Design a new outfit
for Olivia.

What would you
choose and why?

Draw Olivia in her
new outfit, cut it out
and stick it on.