



**MY DOG**



**SHAG**

Online Edition By  
Marguerite & Dr. Len

Illustrated By

# My Dog Shag\*

\*He calls himself "Woof"

Original story, 1979, designed with **CRAYONS**

First edition, 1998, edited by Kathleen Hayes, Reading Consultant,  
John Brown Francis School, Warwick, Rhode Island  
Printed at Rhode Island College, Providence, Rhode Island,  
United States of America

Online edition copyright © 2002 by Marguerite & Dr. Len

This 2011 copy of the online edition was hand-illustrated by

A PDF digital copy of *My Dog Shag* for you or your friends to illustrate  
is available free by e-mail request from: [Marguerite.DrLen@yahoo.com](mailto:Marguerite.DrLen@yahoo.com)

## INTRODUCTION

*My Dog Shag* is the interactive educational focus of a multicultural interdisciplinary curriculum unit for elementary students in the *primary* grades of school or learning at home. A student illustrates the book and then can put her/his first name on the cover in the tinted area surrounding the words 'Illustrated By' just like Marguerite & Dr. Len have their first names above on the cover. Then, in the outlined box on the title page the student can include his/her full name, grade, school, favorite library, or anything else. For *intermediate* elementary, middle school, and high school students, the book is an exhibition opportunity for their developing artistic skills whereby they can illustrate a story for younger 'reading partners'.

This book is also an example of desktop publishing using a school or home personal computer with a printer. In addition, a punch and spreader for plastic comb binding makes books that will lie flat while open to each page during picture drawing.

Most of *Shag's* activities take place in the present; however, the dream sequence leads a young reader into the future. While descriptive words such as: "big and fluffy", "bushes in the pouring rain", "dig in the sand at the beach", stimulate children's imaginations, the absence of certain specific details (the color of Shag's fur, the kinds of flowers and vegetables) encourages individual creativity. The book is completed as the characters, activities, and environments are personally illustrated from each child's unique perspective, experiences and cultural heritage.

In process, our story is considered as a whole, first, and may be used as a 'read-aloud' for a teacher or parent to share with one child or a group. Follow-up discussion helps further identify a range of possibilities for enhancing the described story with personal illustrations. Finally, 'show-and-tell' sharing of completed pictures offers opportunities to develop understanding of children's diverse interpretations of similar stimuli. Bilingual or ESL students can consider re-telling this story in another of the world's many languages (including sign language), for our further learning together.

## TEACHER/PARENT SUGGESTIONS

Each page of text is designed to be printed on one side only of 8 ½ x 11 inch sheets of paper (or card stock), leaving the blank side for a student's illustrations of each event in our story. A child can prepare one illustration at a time until she/he has hand 'illuminated' a complete volume of her/his own, over a sequence of twenty-eight story experiences. Individual children, working in a group, could create single-page illustrations to be included in a class, family, or library copy of the book. Students working cooperatively on the same picture might each prepare a portion of a shared illustration. Everyone is welcome to write and illustrate their own sequels involving our dog in future adventures. Possible past events from 'puppyhood' could even be imagined, written about and illustrated. *Shag* may encourage others to write and illustrate their own completely original stories. The book *Shag* can be used by itself or as part of a larger study unit about pets or families.

Illustration media possibilities include crayons, colored pencils, graphite pencils, and pastels. If you print a copy of the book on heavier stock, you can also apply watercolor markers and watercolor paints, or anything else that should not soak through whatever type of pages you select.

## SHAG'S STORY

My dog Shag is big and fluffy with long ears and wide feet.  
Shag likes to run across fields and chase birds, but he does *not* catch them.  
He even runs through gardens and chases rabbits! He doesn't catch *them*, either.  
Shag also likes to lie in the cool shade of trees near a pond.  
On rainy days, he has to stay in the house and look out the window.  
One dark stormy afternoon when I went to bring in the mail,  
Shag pushed by me and hurried down the stairs.  
He chased a cat around the yard and through some bushes in the pouring rain.  
The cat jumped up and over a tall fence to get away.  
Shag splashed into puddles and rolled around in a garden.  
Flowers and vegetables went everywhere! His fur got all wet and muddy.  
Later, when I opened the door to get the newspaper, he dashed back inside.  
My family was not happy because Shag left dirty paw prints all over the floors.  
He climbed into a large soft chair to take a nap and made it a mess.  
"Shag needs a bath" said our parents. "Fill your small pool with lots of soapy water."  
My brother and sister helped me lift Shag into all those bubbles.  
Together, we scrubbed and washed him until he was clean.  
I sprayed the suds off Shag with cold water from the hose.  
Then Shag sprayed all of us as he shook the water off his fur.  
Finally, we dried him (*and ourselves*) with brightly colored towels.  
Soon Shag was fluffy again. He was also hungry, from all the activity and that *cold* water,  
so we served him dinner in a deep round dish.  
After eating, he went to sleep in his own bed; the one with his name on the side.  
Shag dreamed about chasing cats and rabbits and birds and playing in the garden.  
Then he dreamed of what he'd like to do tomorrow.  
Let's see, would he dig in the sand at the beach by the sea?  
Maybe he could join the boys and girls who play ball in the empty lot down the street.  
Perhaps he might just keep warm in the sunshine.  
But, Shag knew one thing for sure; if it rained tomorrow, he would have to stay in the house.

My dog Shag  
is **BIG** and *fluffy*  
with long ears  
and **w i d e** feet.

**Shag likes to  
run across fields  
and chase birds,  
but  
he does *not* catch them.**

**He even  
runs through gardens  
and chases  
RABBITS!**

**He doesn't catch *them*, either.**

**Shag also likes  
to lie in the  
cool shade  
of trees  
near a pond.**

**On rainy days  
he has to  
stay in the house  
and  
look out the window.**

**One dark stormy  
afternoon  
when I went  
to bring in the mail,  
Shag pushed by me and...**

**hurried  
down  
the  
stairs.**

**He chased a cat  
around the yard  
and  
through some bushes  
in the pouring rain.**

**The cat  
jumped  
up and over  
a tall fence  
to get away.**

**Shag  
splashed into puddles  
and rolled around  
in a garden.**

**Flowers and vegetables  
WENT  
EVERYWHERE!**

**His fur  
got all wet and muddy.**

**Later,**  
**when I opened the door**  
**to get the newspaper,**  
he *DASHED*  
**back inside.**

**My family   
was not happy  
because Shag left  
dirty  paw prints  
all over the floors.**

**He climbed into  
a large soft chair  
to take a nap  
and  
made it a mess.**

*“Shag needs a bath”*  
said our parents.

*“Fill your small pool  
with lots of  
soapy water.”*

**My brother and sister  
helped me lift Shag  
into all those  
bubbles.**

**Together,  
we scrubbed  
and washed him  
until  
he was clean.**

**I sprayed the suds  
off Shag  
with cold water  
from the hose.**

**Then Shag sprayed  
all of us  
as he shook  
the water off his fur.**

**Finally,**  
**we dried him**  
***(and ourselves)***  
**with**  
**brightly colored towels.**

**Soon Shag was**

*fluffy*

**again.**

**He was also hungry  
from all the activity  
and that *cold* water,  
so we served him  
**dinner**  
in a deep round dish.**

**After eating,  
he went to sleep  
in his own bed;  
the one with  
his name on the side.**

**Shag dreamed about  
chasing  
cats and rabbits and birds  
and  
playing in the garden.**

**Then he dreamed of  
what he'd like to do  
tomorrow.**

**Let's see, would he  
dig in the sand  
at the beach by the sea?**

**Maybe he could join  
the boys and girls  
who play ball  
in the empty lot  
down the street.**

**Perhaps he might  
just keep warm  
in the sunshine.**

**But, Shag knew one  
thing for sure;  
if it rained tomorrow,  
*he would have to  
stay in the house.***

**THE END**

***"WOOF"*** 

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

MARGUERITE HARDISTY graduated from Rhode Island College with a B.S. in Elementary Education followed by graduate study in Education at the University of Rhode Island. She taught for thirty-one years in the Warwick, Rhode Island public schools and the federal Project Head Start. After retiring, she returned to URI and earned her Master Gardener certification. She's been the Team Leader of volunteers in the greenhouse and two dozen gardens on the grounds of the Rhode Island Veterans Home for over a decade.

LEN WEST earned his Ph.D. in Educational Studies at the University of Connecticut, plus master's and bachelor's degrees in Art Education and English from Rhode Island College, but he 'learned how to learn' during an A.A. Liberal Arts program in the Community College of Rhode Island's old factory building (where his grandfather had been a machinist) beside the river in Providence. He has over twenty years experience in higher education as an Adjunct Professor, Student Teaching Supervisor, Cooperating Teacher, Program Director, and Faculty Advisor working with undergraduate and graduate students in Rhode Island, Connecticut and Wyoming state teacher certification programs. In public schools and libraries, his community service work with elementary and secondary students has included, "Dr. Len Reads Aloud" and "Can You Picture This?" workshops, in addition to science education with NASA Moon Rocks, NASA Space-Exposed Seeds, meteorites (astronomy that falls from the sky), and the Starshine 1, 2, and 3 space satellites.

KATHLEEN HAYES is a graduate of the University of Rhode Island and earned her master's degree in Reading from Rhode Island College. She is an elementary school Reading Consultant in the Warwick School Department.

WOOF graduated *magna cum loudly* from the Dogspaws School.

The nicest experiences, in developing this book, involved working with the students, teachers, and families that are the life of our public schools, free for all boys and girls in the United States of America.

*Marguerite & Dr. Len are available for  
reading out loud children's workshops  
in schools and public libraries of America  
by e-mailing: Marguerite.DrLen@yahoo.com*



