



# DIG, DOGS, DIG

AUTHOR: JAMES HORVATH

ILLUSTRATOR: JAMES HORVATH

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Dig, Dogs, Dig](#)

**\*\* REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! \*\***

## OVERVIEW

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Duke wakes his team of fellow dogs for a busy workday. These canines are construction workers, and they get down to business, digging until they hit an obstacle. They work together to pull it out – a dinosaur bone! – and get back to their project, turning an empty patch of land into something the whole neighborhood can enjoy.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

James Horvath has worked as a designer and illustrator for more than fifteen years. In 2002 he established Jamestoons Studios (with a workforce of one) so he could focus more on his illustration. When not scratching and scribbling at his drawing table, he plays with his two young sons and wife, bangs around on the banjo, surfs, and generally has a lot of fun. A lifelong devoted cartoon fan, James Horvath lives with his family on California's central coast. ([harpercollins.com](http://harpercollins.com))

## THE READ ALOUD

### BEFORE READING

Use these prompts before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- (cover) Looking at the illustration on the cover, I wonder what they're building.
- (title page) The title uses the word tail, instead of tale. Those words sound the same, but they are spelled differently, and mean different things. (*Reader: explain the difference.*) How does this help us to understand what kind of story this might be?
- (title page) What kinds of things are in the illustration on the title page? (cones, construction barrier, dog digging)

### DURING THE STORY

Use these prompts while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content:

- (pp. 1-2) How many dogs are sleeping in this room? How many cats? What do all the zzzz's mean?
- (pp. 1-2) Do you notice the rhyming words? What are they? Let's listen to the story and see if we can recognize the other rhyming words.
- (p. 5) What are they having for breakfast? That's a lot of pancakes! What are the boxes in the front with their names on them?
- (p. 14) I wonder what they've found!

DIG, DOGS, DIG

### TOPICS & THEMES:

- Construction
- Teamwork
- Trucks

### *Tips for every book!*

### POWER PHRASES:

*I WONDER...*

*I NOTICE...*

*TELL ME MORE...*

### DIGGING DEEPER:

*"Tell me more, why do you think that?"*

*"How do you know that?"*

*"Why do you think they feel like that?"*

*"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"*

- (p. 16) Does anyone know what a winch is? (*Reader: explain the winch is the part of the crane where the metal rope winds up or out.*)
- (p. 19) Wow! A t-rex bone!
- (p. 23) What do you think the ducks are for?
- (p. 25) What’s wrong with this picture? (*Reader: point out the “open other end” box, and how the box is being opened.*)
- (p. 26) What are they constructing?

## AFTER READING

*Use these prompts after reading the story to help students understand what they just read:*

- Do you think it’s possible to build a park in a day? Why or why not?
- What was the dinosaur bone doing in the park?

## BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- (pp. 7-8) There are a lot of trucks on this page! Let’s count them. How about cars? Dogs?
- (p. 19) If you’ve ever seen a t-rex bone (in a museum, online, video) give a thumbs up.

## COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- Together with your partner (or in groups of 3) think of words that rhyme with “done” (p. 5). Share them with the class.

## SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

### 1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- (*Reader: show endpapers, front and back.*) Do you see any differences between the front and back endpapers? Why do you think the illustrator did that?
- (*Reader: Pick some words from the story and have the students think of all the rhyming words they can.*)
- (p. 1) Is the sun coming up or going down? Why do you think that?
- The dogs in this story are wearing clothing and hats. Do dogs wear this kind of clothing? Do you think this is a true story (non-fiction) or a made-up story (fiction)?
- (p. 11) Can you find an animal that is not a dog?

### Suggested Optional Activity:

- What else could the construction crew build? Draw a picture of it.

### 2. WRITING ACTIVITY

- Make a list of rhyming words. Pick a word to start with from the story (can be different for each student).

### 3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Draw a road for the trucks to get from school to an imaginary construction site two blocks away (see pp. 6-7). Include stores, gas stations, etc. Then draw a truck from p. 9 on that road.

## COMMON CORE LINKS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1, K.2, K.3, K.4, K.5, K.6, K.7, K.10