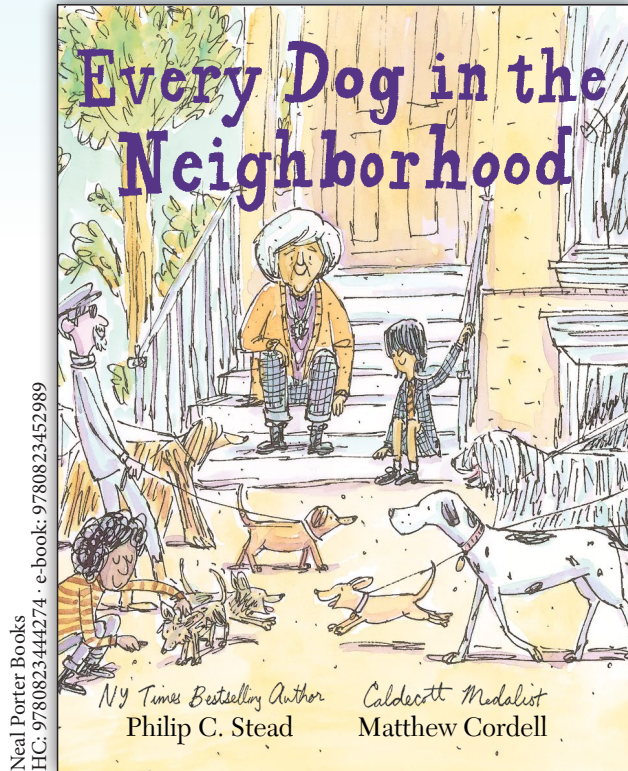


HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



Every Dog in the Neighborhood

by **Philip C. Stead**

illustrated by **Matthew Cordell**

★ “A vivid cast of characters . . . [are featured in this] nuanced tale—one that ends sweetly, in more ways than one.”

—*The Horn Book*, Starred Review

★ “A gentle and pleasant read.”

—*School Library Journal*, Starred Review

ABOUT THE BOOK

Louis and his eccentric Grandma set out to count every dog in the neighborhood when they find out about city hall’s woefully inadequate record keeping.

Louis wants a dog, but his Grandma insists, “There are enough dogs in the neighborhood already.” But how many dogs are in the neighborhood? Surely a sternly worded letter to City Hall will clear this up. When it turns out that City Hall doesn’t keep an official count of this essential demographic, Louis and his Grandma do their civic duty and take matters into their own hands.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discuss Louis’s relationship with his grandmother. Why does he think his grandmother knows everything? How does she predict the weather? Explain how she listens to Louis even when he thinks she doesn’t hear him. What important lesson does she teach Louis?
- Conflict in a story is the problem to be solved. What is the conflict of this story? At what point does the reader learn the conflict? How is the conflict solved? Who is responsible for the solution?



- Why does Grandma write a letter to the city? She thinks people listen more when you show them how upset you are. How does the illustration on page 7 show that Grandma isn't happy with the letter she receives from the city? Discuss what she does next. How does Grandma make the neighborhood dogs and their owners happy?
- Grandma tells Louis that if you want things done, you do it yourself. How does this give Louis an idea? What is his mission, or the question he wants answered? Study all the things he needs to gather the information he wants (p. 8). What is the purpose of each item? How many types of dogs does Louis find in his neighborhood? Discuss the interesting things he learns about the dogs.
- Study the illustrations on the pages with no text. How do they continue the storyline? Explain how the illustrator shows Louis's path as he walks the neighborhood. What do the illustrations on pages 16 and 17 reveal about Grandma? Take a look at the spread on pages 25 and 26. Why is Grandma frowning?
- The last page shows Grandma at her typewriter. Who is she writing to? What do you think she is saying in her letter?

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

ABOUT THE CREATORS



Philip C. Stead is the author of the Caldecott Medal winner *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*, illustrated by his wife, Erin E. Stead. Their collaboration *Music for Mister Moon* won the Great Lakes Great Reads Award. Philip has written and illustrated many picture books including *Follow That Frog* with Matthew Cordell, which was a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection. He also illustrated *Charlotte Zolotow's In My Garden* for Holiday House. He lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



Matthew Cordell is the Caldecott Medal-winning author and illustrator of *Wolf in the Snow* and *Hello Neighbor!: The Kind and Caring World of Mister Rogers*, recipient of four starred reviews, and the illustrator of numerous highly acclaimed children's books including Philip C. Stead's books *Follow That Frog*, *The Only Fish in the Sea*, and *Special Delivery*, which was a *Washington Post* Best Book. Matthew lives near Chicago with his wife, author Julie Halpern, and their two children.

