



TRAITOR DACHSHUND®
Celebrating Children and Animals

A Dachshund's Wish Discussion Topics:

- ✦ **Dreaming Big**—Every child should dream big, just like Paws, the puppy.
- ✦ **Working Hard**—Reaching a goal can be hard work but it's rewarding. Paws had to travel far and do things he thought were scary and difficult. He didn't give up.
- ✦ **Teamwork**—We can achieve more together than when we work alone. After all, Paws could not have reached the Great Mae without the help of his friends. Paws and his adventures can be used to illustrate the value of working together on classroom projects and learning how to get along with others.
- ✦ **Empathy and connection**—Caring for and relating to a pet teaches children about the feelings and needs of others. Paws is adopted from a shelter and forms a loving bond with his owner. He also makes many friends in the animal kingdom.
- ✦ **Self-Esteem**—Children often imagine that they are another person or even an animal at some point in their lives. *A Dachshund's Wish* explores this universal desire in a puppy who dreams of becoming a boy like his exuberant young master. Paws' extraordinary journey begins when his dream of being adopted by a loving family comes true. His quest to become human challenges him to see himself and others clearly, and to understand that actions have consequences.
- ✦ **Respect for others**—Paws comes to appreciate the special talents of each woodland creature he meets during his odyssey to become a real boy. Paws also learns that first appearances can be deceiving when he confronts the Great Mae, the animal who can grant his wish.
- ✦ **Our planet**—*A Dachshund's Wish* also touches on pollution and its effects on the environment as Paws experiences the results of human carelessness on the habitats of his new friends.

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A Dachshund's Wish Discussion Questions:

1. Paws dreamed he could be a boy. If you have a pet, what would it be like if it became a boy or a girl?
2. What is your big dream? How would your life be different if your dream came true?
3. Why did the wild animals help Paws on his quest to become a boy? Did they think it was a good idea for him to change?
4. Which animal was your favorite? What did you like about it?
5. Have you seen places that are ugly and full of trash like Mr. Blackbird's territory? What do you think people can do to clean up the places animals and birds live?
6. Do you ever see wild animals in your back yard, in parks or in the woods? Which animals have you seen? Do you think they would get along with Paws or other pets?
7. Do you know someone you didn't like at first but became a friend after you got to know them? Why didn't you like him or her? What changed your mind?
8. Paws had good friends. Who is your best friend and why?
9. How did teamwork help Paws meet the Great Mae?
10. Have you ever had to work hard to reach a goal? Did you achieve it? How did you feel?

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