

*Sporting Dogs*  
**Discussion Guide**  
Grades 3-8

**Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.**

- What are some jobs animals can have besides being pets?
- What qualities do you think animals need to be good at their jobs?
- What are some ways animals can help humans?
- Frontload vocabulary

**During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections. Prompt students to provide support for their answers from the text.**

- What is the sporting group? What do dogs in the sporting group do?
- How do different breeds of sporting dogs help in different ways?
- How does the size of sporting dogs help them with their job? What other features of the dogs help them?
- What other kinds of jobs can sporting dogs have?
- If you have a sporting dog as a pet, what special things do you need to do to take care of it?
- Why do you think sporting dogs are popular pet choices?
- Choose two breeds of sporting dogs highlighted on pages 22-29 and compare/contrast the breeds.
- What makes sporting dogs special?

**After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.**

Think about another way a sporting dog could be trained to be helpful. What would you train them to do? Why? Why would they be a good fit for that job?

Think about another animal or breed of dog. How are they different from sporting dogs? Do you they have anything in common?

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.