



Summary

Eye to Eye With Dogs: English Springer Spaniels is an informational book that provides the characteristics, history, and description of this energetic and popular dog.

Vocabulary		Comprehension Strategy	Genre Study	Text Features	
agility	breed	Asking questions, Determining supporting details	Text structure: Description, Use of supporting details	table of contents	headings
breeders	conformation			photographs	captions
docked	endurance			bold glossary words	
gundog	obedience			glossary	
retrieve				index	

Standards: Science and Social Studies

- Knows that differences exist among individuals of the same kind of animal
- Knows that an organism’s patterns of behavior are related to the nature of that organism’s environment
- Knows that behavior of animals is influenced by internal cues and external cues
- Understands the principles of heredity and related concepts

Kendall, J. S., & Marzano, R. J. (2004). *Content knowledge: A compendium of standards and benchmarks for K-12 education*. Aurora, CO: Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL). Online database: [www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/](http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/)

Discussion Prompts Prior to Independent Reading

Vocabulary Building and Background Knowledge:

Read the title as students look at the cover. Ask students to talk about what they observe on the cover and what they already know about English springer spaniels. Scaffold a discussion that builds on the background knowledge of students and introduces them to the vocabulary words. Ask students to turn to the glossary on page 23.

Discussion questions:

- Predict what a *gundog* might do. Check the definition in the glossary. How might a *gundog* help a hunter?
- English springer spaniels *retrieve* birds for hunters. Do you think the spaniels eat the birds? Read the definition of *retrieve* in the glossary.
- Springers have great *endurance* and *agility*. Read the definitions for these two words in the glossary. Name two things that you think a springer might be able to do well.

- What does a *breeder* do? How might a breeder create a “pure” breed of dog?

Genre Study and Text Features:

State that **Eye to Eye With Dogs: English Springer Spaniels** is an informational book. Highlight genre characteristics and text features that will support students in reading the text.

Highlight prompts:

- Look at the photographs in the book. Where do you think an English springer spaniel might enjoy being the most?
- After skimming the book, write down three questions you have about the English springer spaniel.

Reading the Book:

Have students read the book independently or with a partner. Ask students to answer their questions as they read, and write new ones if they can.

Comprehension Questions

After students have completed reading **Eye to Eye With Dogs: English Springer Spaniels** gather students together for a discussion based on the questions below or assign students to answer the questions independently or with a partner.

- Look at the questions and the answers you wrote while you were reading. Were you able to answer all of your questions? Did you write any new questions that you were not able to answer? Share the information that you wrote as you were reading.
- Would an English springer spaniel make a good pet if you lived in an apartment in the city? Why or why not?

BLM: Extension Activity

Students may use the next page to draw an English springer spaniel and list important characteristics. Then they write a descriptive paragraph about the dog.



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## EXTENSION ACTIVITY Eye to Eye With Dogs: English Springer Spaniels

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Draw a picture of an English springer spaniel hunting. List the important characteristics of a springer that make it an excellent gundog. Use the information you learned while reading to write a short, descriptive paragraph about the springer.

List characteristics:

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Draw:



Write:

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