


**Novel Resource for the novel:
Rockwell: A Boy and His Dog
 By Loren Spiotta-DiMare**

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About the Author Loren Spiotta-DiMare	
Background and Interesting Facts	Loren Spiotta-DiMare is a devoted animal lover and member of the Dog Writers Association of America. She has been writing about her favorite subject for over 25 years. Her magazine articles have appeared in numerous national consumer and specialty magazines.
Official Website	http://users.nac.net/chelsmok/aboutauthor.html http://www.patmedia.net/author/contact.html
E-mail	chelsmok@nac.net
Mailing Address	Loren Spiotta - DiMare PO. Box 301 Califon, New Jersey 07830
	
	http://www.patmedia.net/author/
Author's Connection to the Book	Her work has been recognized by The Dog Writers Association, and New Jersey Press Women.
Other Books Written by the Author	<u>Macaws</u> , <u>Siamese Cats</u> , <u>The Sporting Spaniel Handbook</u> , <u>Caesar: On Deaf Ears</u> , <u>Norman to the Rescue</u> , <u>Chelsea & The New Puppy</u> .
Annotation	
Spiotta-DiMare gives us a light-hearted look at Norman Rockwell and his work with his young friend and model, Scotty. Rockwell is creating four calendar paintings depicting the four seasons and plans to call them <u>A Boy and His Dog</u> . The historical fiction work tells of the relationship between the artist and model and the adventure of finding just the right dog for the illustrations.	

Booktalk

If you like drawing and dogs, you will love this book! Norman Rockwell is one of America's most well-known artists. You've probably seen some of his work.. This is the story of how he created four calendar paintings called "A Boy and His Dog." The book's illustrations look very much like Rockwell's work and there are great drawings of dogs. See if you find your favorite breed of dog in the book.

Characters

<u>Name & Age</u>	<u>Relationship to other Characters</u>	<u>Personality Traits</u>
Norman Rockwell	Main character	Talented, friendly, hardworking, dedicated.
Scotty	Friend, model	Friendly, helpful, loves animals
Lucky Lady	Beagle and model	

Conflict

Rockwell faces an external struggle; he must find just the right dog for the calendar paintings. None of the regular neighborhood dogs fit the image he has.

Conflict Resolution

Scotty finds a beagle hanging around his dog and takes her to Rockwell. She's perfect for the work and Rockwell names her Lucky Lady.

Genre

Historical fiction

If You like Rockwell: A Boy and His Dog you'll love:

Art Dog by Thatcher Hurd, Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

Same author: Chelsea & The New Puppy, Norman to the Rescue

Interest Level/Reading Level

Interest Level: K-3

Reading Level: 2.8

Lexile 710

<http://titlewave.com/search?SID=079>

[bbd9bb90d1f0b810d4be6c9770164](http://titlewave.com/search?SID=079)

Read-Aloud Pages/Passages

Page 6: "I'm creating four calendar paintings,..."

Page 11: "The next time Scotty walked into the studio..."

Setting

Mid-twentieth century, Stockbridge, Massachusetts

Point of View
Third person
Theme
The theme of <u>Rockwell: A Boy and His Dog</u> is friendship. Mr. Rockwell and Scotty have a great relationship both personal and professional. Scotty seems to enjoy talking with Mr. Rockwell about many topics. Mr. Rockwell reads Scotty's moods and leads him into conversations. Mr. Rockwell shares experiences from his childhood that Scotty relates to. The title of the book is also the title of the calendar paintings Rockwell created. It also encompasses the bond between Scotty and Uncle Fud, Rockwell and Lucky Lady, and any boy (or girl) and the dog he (or she) loves.
Across the Curriculum Connections
<p>Language Arts: Read more about beagles and other dogs. Non-fiction book - <u>Beagles</u> by Julie Murray. Abdo Pub., c2002. Non-fiction book - <u>101 salivations : for the love of dogs</u> by Rachel Hale. Bulfinch Press, c2003.</p> <p>These non-fiction books relate to the book as dogs are included in the illustrations.</p> <p>Social Studies: Learn about Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Website - Stockbridge, Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce http://www.stockbridgechamber.org/ This resource will give students a look at the hometown of Norman Rockwell.</p> <p>Art: Learn more about the life and work of Norman Rockwell. Resource: Video - <u>Norman Rockwell's world-- : an American dream</u> Home Vision, Chicago, c1987, c1972. Resource: Website – Norman Rockwell Museum http://www.nrm.org/ These resources will give students more information about Rockwell's life and his art.</p>
Activities

Write an essay using the prompt “The dog of my dreams” Individual
Bind them into a class book and put it in the school media center.

Language arts: 3.4.5, 3.4.6, 3.4.7, 3.4.8, 3.5.4, 3.5.5, 3.6.2, 3.6.3, 3.6.4, 3.6.5, 3.6.6, 3.6.7, 3.6.8, 4.4.3, 4.4.4, 4.4.9, 4.4.10, 4.4.11, 4.4.12, 4.5.1, 4.5.5, 4.5.6, 4.6.2, 4.6.3, 4.6.4, 5.4.6, 5.4.8, 5.4.9, 5.4.10, 5.5.5, 5.5.6, 5.6.1, 5.6.2, 5.6.8, 5.6.3, 5.6.6, 6.4.4, 6.4.5, 6.4.7, 6.4.8, 6.4.9, 6.4.10, 6.5.2, 6.5.6, 6.5.7, 6.6.1, 6.6.6, 6.6.2, 6.6.4, 6.6.5.

Conduct a Service Learning Project for local humane shelter Class/groups

Group 1 – contact shelter for information, then compose letter to send home with all students to request donations

Group 2 – create posters to advertise the project at school and in community

Group 3 – sort and graph items collected

Class – present collected items to humane shelter representative

Language arts: 3.4.5, 3.4.6, 3.4.7, 3.4.8, 3.5.6, 3.5.3, 3.5.4, 3.5.5, 3.6.3, 3.6.4, 3.6.5, 3.6.6, 3.6.7, 3.6.8, 3.7.5, 3.7.6, 3.7.8, 3.7.12, 4.4.9, 4.4.10, 4.4.11, 4.4.12, 4.5.5, 4.5.6, 4.6.2, 4.6.3, 4.6.4, 4.6.7, 4.6.8, 4.7.5, 4.7.7, 4.7.8, 4.7.9, 4.7.11, 4.7.12, 5.4.6, 5.4.8, 5.4.9, 5.4.10, 5.5.4, 5.5.5, 5.6.1, 5.6.2, 5.6.8, 5.6.3, 5.6.4, 5.6.5, 5.6.6, 5.6.7, 5.7.4, 5.7.6, 5.7.13, 5.7.10.

Math: 5.6.1

Discussion Questions

Pre-reading:

What does the title tell you about this book?

Have you seen any art work by Norman Rockwell?

During:

Why is the story set where it is (Stockbridge, MA)?

What character traits does Scotty have that you also have?

Why does Scotty try to find a dog for Rockwell’s paintings?

What helped Rockwell get through his difficult times in school?

How do the clothes worn by Scotty and Rockwell compare with the clothes worn by boys and men today?

Post-reading:

What happens in the story that has happened to you?

Would this story make a good movie? Why or why not?

If you could change the type of dog used in the paintings, what type of dog would you use and why?

Language

Burly - p. 5, strong and hearty

Pose - p. 6, to sit or stand for a picture or painting

Newsstand - p. 13, a booth where newspapers and magazines are sold

Indiana Academic Standards

Language Arts: 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.3.4, 3.3.8, 4.3.2, 4.3.3, 4.3.6, 4.3.7, 5.3.2, 5.3.4, 6.3.3, 6.3.4, 6.3.9.

Social Studies: 3.2.1, 3.5.1, 4.2.7, 5.2.9, 6.1.18, 6.1.20,.

Bibliography

Indiana Academic Standards website

<http://www.doe.state.in.us/standards/welcome.html>

Titlewave (Follett)

<http://www.flr.follett.com/main?SID=1f888c4604792e92087aee08592efa96>

Norman Rockwell Museum <http://www.nrm.org/>

Stockbridge, Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.stockbridgechamber.org/>