



READ. SHARE. CONNECT



Activity Guide **Madeline Finn and the Shelter Dog**

Book by Lisa Papp

Themes: Helping others / Reading helps calm us down and connect us /
Dogs or animals / Love is the most important thing

We may not all be taking in a shelter animal right now, but like Madeline learns, there are still lots of ways to nurture others. Try these activities to learn how to connect with the people you care about during these unusual times.



All You Need Is Love

Mrs. Dimple reminds Madeline that “love is the most important thing” when taking care of Star. Madeline not only tells Star she loves him, she shows him by taking care of and doing nice things for him.

Here’s how you can show people you love them:

- Give them a compliment.
- Bake a treat for them.
- Draw or paint a picture of something they love or something you do together.
- Help with chores around the house.
- Make them laugh (do something silly or tell a joke).
- Tell them a story or listen to theirs.
- Ask them how they are and really listen to their answers.
- Give them a hug.

Think of more ways you can show people you love them, and try to do at least one nice thing every day!



Good Morning Sunshine

Madeline makes Star feel good by hugging, feeding, playing with and reading to him. Show someone you love them and help start their day off with a smile. Write and hide “good morning” notes that say “Good Morning, Sunshine!” Then write a kind message like “your laugh makes my heart happy,” “you wear the coolest hats” or whatever you like. Hide it where they’ll find it, like near the coffee pot, their favorite breakfast cereal or their toothbrush.



Virtually “Adopt” a New Pet

Madeline asks for a dog until one day her mommy lets her adopt Star. Even if you can’t get a new pet, you can still watch and care for new animal friends. Plant a butterfly garden, or hang a hummingbird feeder or bird house outside. Ask a grownup to help you find your local zoo’s webcam or another nature webcam to see animals from around the world. Then you can “visit” your new animal friends right from your computer!



Find a Reading Friend

Madeline realizes that sharing books and reading to others makes others happy and calm. Here’s how you can find your reading friends.

- **Choose someone to read with.** It could be a pet, a friend or family member, or even a doll or stuffed animal!
- **Choose a predictable time.** Read together once a week, every day, any time. You could even have different reading friends on different days.
- **Take turns.** If your reading friend can read, take turns picking and reading books to each other.
- **Gather a group.** Find a few reading friends and start a book club!



Send a Smile

Another way to show someone you care is to make them smile. Send a silly card for a made-up holiday (like Silly Friend Day, Helpful Person Day, Best Joke-Telling Grandma Day, etc.). Make it personal! After all, who wouldn’t want a holiday celebrating how special they are?