

# ***Mogie: the Heart of the House***

**AUTHOR:** Kathi Appelt

**ILLUSTRATOR:** Marc Rosenthal

**PUBLISHER:** Atheneum Books for Young Readers

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**ART MEDIUM:** Colored pencil, charcoal and digital drawings

**GENRE:** Contemporary Realistic Fiction

**LIFE SKILLS:** Friendship, Caring

## **SYNOPSIS:**

Mogie is a dog that has a special knack for knowing which of the children in the Ronald McDonald House can use his special “mojo”, his special charm. He befriends sick children who are staying at the home, often with family, while they are receiving treatment from nearby hospitals.

## **BOOKTALK:**

What cheers you up when you feel sad? Do you have a special pet that can always make you happy? In this book, a cute dog named Mogie helps kids feel better when they are sick. Let’s read and find out!

**AUTHOR:** Kathi Appelt

Kathi Appelt was raised in Texas where she still lives. She began journaling at a young age and still does.

Author website: <http://www.kathiappelt.com/about-kathi/>

## **Other books written by the author:**

*Brand New Baby Blues*

*Counting Crows*

*Merry Christmas Merry Crow*

*True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp*

*When Otis Counted Mama*

**ILLUSTRATOR:** Marc Rosenthal

Marc Rosenthal lives in Massachusetts with his wife and Pete the Cat. He has written and illustrated several of his own books, along with illustrating three of his wife’s books, along with many other children’s books.

Illustrator website: <http://www.pippinproperties.com/authors-illustrators/marc-roenthal/>

## **Other books illustrated by the illustrator:**

*Archie and the Pirates, Phooey!*

**CHALLENGING WORDS:**

smack  
enormous  
mojo  
passel  
service dog  
groomed  
cha-cha-cha  
beeline

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. How do you think a pet can make you feel better?
2. What is the job of a service dog?
3. What do you think it means to lose your “mojo” or “cha cha cha”?
4. What kind of special house was it that Mogie visited?
5. How are Gage and Mogie alike?
6. How did Mogie help Gage?
7. What does it mean that Mogie is the heart of the house?

**ACTIVITIES WITH STANDARDS:****Language Arts:**

- Create a Venn Diagram comparing and contrasting similarities and differences between Gage and Mogie.

**Research:**

- Using print and digital sources, research therapy and service dogs to find out different types and what their job is.

**K.RV. 3.1, 1.RV.3.1, 2.RV.3.1** With support, ask and answer questions about unknown words in stories, poems, or songs.

**K.RL.4.2** With support, compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in familiar stories.

**K.W.5, 1.W.5, 2.W.5, 3.W.5** With support, build understanding of a topic using various sources.

Identify relevant pictures, charts, grade-appropriate texts, personal experiences, or people as sources of information on a topic.

## **Social Studies:**

- (Discussion) Talk about health care workers and how they help our community. What happens when someone is so sick they have to go to a special hospital far from home? Explain how Ronald McDonald Houses operate, allowing families to stay near hospitals. With sick children staying there, what rules would be necessary to help them get well? Would you need rules about quiet so that patients can rest? What rules might be in place to help limit the spread of germs? Would pets be too loud or dirty in this environment?

(Activity) Make two lists, one side for good reasons to have a dog like Mogie at a home, and the other side for reasons why someone shouldn't have a dog.

**K.2.4** Give examples of how to be a responsible family member and member of a group.

**1.2.2** Define and give examples of rules and laws in the school and the community and explain the benefits of these rules and laws.

## **RELATED INTERNET SITES:**

Description: Ronald McDonald House Charities <http://www.rmhc.org/>