Job Wanted

AUTHOR: Teresa Bateman
ILLUSTRATOR: Chris Sheban
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ART MEDIUM: Watercolors, graphite, colored pencil
GENRE: Animal Fiction

BOOK SUMMARY: An old farm dog arrives at a farm, looking for a job and a home. He tries to convince the farmer that he is just as valuable as a cow, a horse, and a chicken.

BOOK TALK: Farms are very busy places. How many of you have been to a farm? There are lots of animals and lots of work to do. In this book, a dog is hungry and tired and is looking for a place to work and to call home. The farmer, though, doesn’t want a dog. The dog needs to convince the farmer that he should live there. How he’s going to do that?

CHALLENGING WORDS:
plodded
disappointed
discouraged
plow
coop
commotion
foofaraw

AUTHOR BIO: Teresa Bateman was born in Idaho and was raised in a family of ten children. She has worked as a teacher librarian and a children’s book writer for many years.
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ILLUSTRATOR BIO: Chris Sheban was born in Ohio and went to college at Kent State University. He lived in Italy and worked as a graphic designer and illustrator. He now lives in Chicago and works as a picture book illustrator.
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
1. The dog in this story did not give up. Talk about a time that you kept trying at something until you succeeded.
2. Think about other animals that might live on a farm. How could the dog have helped the farmer with other animals?
3. The dog in this book gets disappointed but not discouraged. What do you think the difference is?
4. The illustrations in this book are very important to the story. Why do you think the colors are dark and soft instead of bright?
On the left are problems for the farmer. Draw a line to match the job the dog did which solved a problem for the farmer. What external parts did the dog use in each example?

1.I.S.2 Develop a model mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs. Explore how those external parts could solve a human problem.
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Activity Page Grade 2-3

2.W.3.2 Write a paragraph or paragraphs on a topic that introduce a topic, provide facts and details about the topic, and provide a concluding statement.

To help persuade the farmer that he was useful, the dog did three useful jobs for him. List the three jobs. Then write a concluding, ending sentence that explains why the farmer made the decision he did about a job for the dog.

1.

2.

3.