



Reviewed By Carol Thompson for Readers' Favorite

"Judy the Service Dog by Sallie Dawkins is a touching and informative children's book that introduces young readers to service animals through a determined puppy named Judy. From her earliest days, Judy shows promise, and her path is set toward becoming a fully trained service dog. As she grows, the story follows her through the stages of specialized instruction, emphasizing not just the skills she learns but also the patience, discipline, and dedication required to fulfill such an important role. At the heart of the narrative is Judy's partnership with Sallie, a military veteran whose life is transformed by Judy's assistance. The book balances the emotional connection between handler and dog with clear, age-appropriate explanations of how service dogs are trained and what tasks they perform. By weaving these details into the storyline, Dawkins helps children understand the practical and emotional significance of these working animals in the lives of people with disabilities. Sallie Dawkins also subtly educates readers about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and how it protects the rights of service dog teams. Without feeling like a formal lesson, the book naturally conveys respectful ways to interact with service animals in public spaces, reinforcing empathy and social awareness. This approach ensures that the educational aspects enhance the story rather than interrupt it. Judy the Service Dog works equally well for independent reading or as a shared experience with parents, teachers, or caregivers. It is a strong choice for school libraries and classroom discussions about disabilities, inclusion, and respect. Beyond its educational value, the story celebrates qualities such as loyalty, responsibility, and teamwork, encouraging children to think about how their actions can support others." You can learn more about Sallie Dawkins and "Judy the Service Dog" at <https://readersfavorite.com/book-review/judy-the-service-dog> where you can read reviews and the author's biography, as well as connect with the author directly or through their website and social media pages."

Extending the Story: *Judy the Service Dog*

These questions and activities will help to deepen children's understanding of the story while fostering empathy and awareness of the important roles service dogs play in people's lives.

1. What would it be like if you had a service dog? Draw a picture of you and that dog. What special skills would your dog have? What would its name be?
2. Write (or share) a short story about an adventure Judy and Sallie could have together. Where would they go, and what would they do?
3. Discuss times when you might need support, like when you feel sad or scared. How could a service dog help you in those moments?
4. How would you train a service dog? Make a list of skills you believe would be essential for a service dog to know.
5. Why do you think being smart, loving, and friendly is important for service dogs?
6. What is the role of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)? Why do you think it's important for people with disabilities to have rights similar to everyone else?
7. Why can't people just pet Judy whenever they want? How would you feel if someone distracted you while you were working or concentrating?
8. What types of places does Judy accompany Sallie? Why do you think this is important for Sallie?
9. Can you name a place where it might not be okay for Judy to go? Why?
10. What kind of special care does Judy receive when she is at home? How is it different from when she is working?

11. Do you think it's important for service dogs to have time to relax after they work? Why?
12. Judy doesn't wear her service dog uniform at home. How do you think that makes her feel?
13. What can you do if you see a service dog with a vest? Why is it important to respect their work?
14. How can showing respect to service dogs also show kindness to people who need their help?

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