The Dog Who Changed History



By Susan Johnston Taylor
Illustrated by Linda Silvestri

TCM Teacher Created Materials

Table of Contents

Chapter One:
Meet Trouve, the Talking Terrier 4

Chapter Two:
Enter Thomas and Mabel 12

Chapter Three:
"Mr. Watson, Come Here!" 18

Chapter Four:
Aleck's Invention in Action 24

Author's Note 30

About Us 32

For Review Only

Chapter One

Meet Trouve, the Talking Terrier

Hello! Or ahoy, as my friend would say. His name was Alexander Graham Bell. Maybe you've heard of him. Friends and family called him Aleck for short.

I'm Trouve, Aleck's amazing talking terrier. What? You don't believe a dog can speak?

You see, Aleck loved to experiment with sound. His mother was nearly deaf, and his father taught speech. Aleck also played the piano. He paid close attention to sounds. Musical notes, whistling teapots, and chattering voices all thrilled him.

For Review Only



For Review Only

As an experiment, Aleck trained me to make sounds like a human. He'd put meat in a bowl, and I'd make excited sounds. Then, he'd move my jaw with his hands. The way he moved my throat and mouth made it sound like I said, "How are you, Grandmama?" That was quite a party trick!

During the day, Aleck taught deaf students. At night, he worked on inventions.

The people paying for Aleck's research wanted him to make a better telegraph. Telegraphs sent messages through dots and dashes. But they only sent one message at a time. People wanted a telegraph that could send multiple messages at once.

Aleck wasn't so sure. He preferred the human voice to dots and dashes. If he could find a way to transport voices, he believed it would bring people together.

For Review Only



For Review Only

Aleck tried and tried. Each time something didn't work, Aleck shook his head. "Every experiment teaches a lesson," he said. And then, he would start again.

One summer, Aleck and I visited his parents. They lived in eastern Canada. Aleck loved walking along the Grand River. He called it his dreaming place. As trees swayed in the breeze, he thought and thought. I chased squirrels.



For Review Only

There must be a way to send voices over telegraph wires! But how? he wondered.

A squirrel ran up a tree. I let out several short barks.

Hmm…telegraph code is short and choppy, Aleck continued. *The electrical current stops and starts.*

For Review Only



The Dog Who Changed History

Alexander Graham Bell and his dog, Trouve, create a life-changing invention: the telephone!

For Review Only

Reading Levels
Guided Reading: O
DRA Level: 28
Lexile® Level: 500L

121600

ISBN-13: 978-1-0876-0548-7

90000

9 781087 605487

TCM Teacher Created Materials