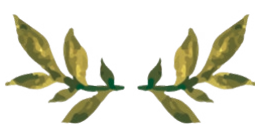
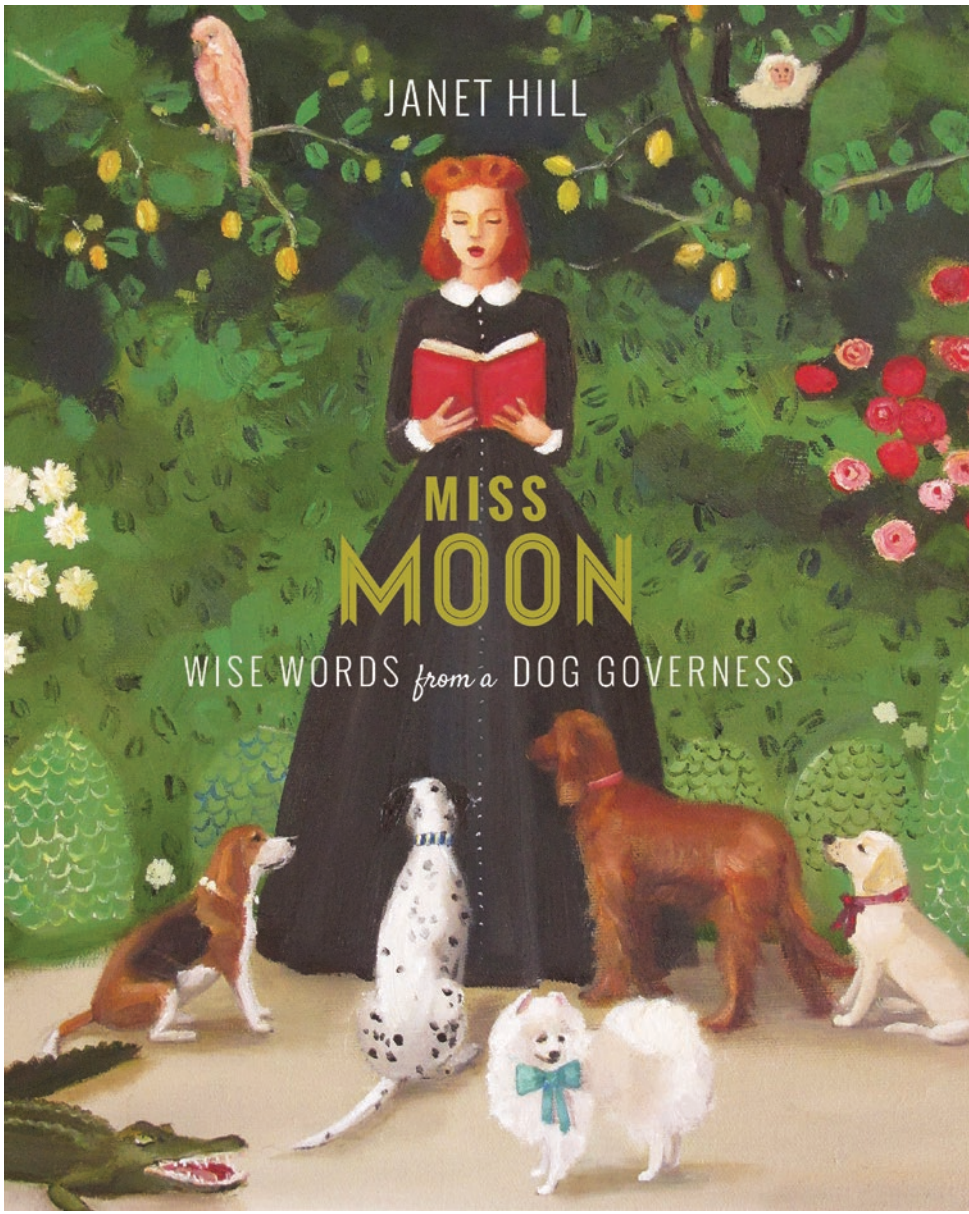




LESSON  
SIX



A good book will chase away the dark.



# EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

## ABOUT THE BOOK

Miss Wilhelmina Moon is a dog governess. At her first placement, on a small island off the coast of France, Miss Moon looked after sixty-seven dogs of all shapes, sizes, colors and personalities. It was quite a challenge! But along with her trusted companions—a monkey named Mitford and a French bulldog named Petunia—Miss Moon was up to the task, and she cared for her furry brood with aplomb. It was the beginning of a lifelong career and the making of a dog governess second to none.

Collected in *Miss Moon: Wise Words from a Dog Governess* are the life lessons that Miss Moon imparted to those canine charges. Some are practical, some are playful, one or two are a little unusual, but all are necessary for the raising of happy, healthy, well-mannered dogs (and humans).

This whimsical, tongue-in-cheek book of wisdom for pooches (and people) can be used in a number of ways including:

- Exploring themes and concepts such as responsibility, connection, wisdom, patience and careers
- Exploring a non-traditional storybook structure
- As an example of the importance and impact of illustrations in picture books
- As a fun and entertaining read-aloud experience

Discussion prompts and suggested activities have been linked to Common Core State Standards where applicable.

## JANET HILL

Janet Hill's elegant and whimsical artwork can be found in private collections throughout North America, Europe, Asia and Australia. Her work has also been featured in *Uppercase* and *Matchbook* magazines, and some of her corporate clients include Tiffany & Co., Hallmark UK and HarperCollins. Janet lives in Stratford, Ontario where she paints in a small in-house studio and lives with her husband, John, an independent bookseller, and Finnegan Elliot Woodward and Daisy (their dog and cat).



AUTHOR PHOTO: JOHN WOODWARD

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### PRE-READING DISCUSSION / ACTIVITES RL

- What is a governess? What kinds of duties would a governess likely have to perform each day?
- What is the best piece of advice that you have ever received?
- What is the best piece of advice you have ever given?
- Look at the cover of the book. What “wise words” do you think Miss Moon has for her dogs?

### 1. TWENTY LESSONS RL SL

- Re-read Miss Moon's twenty lessons. Select one of the lessons that you feel to be most important. Why do you think this lesson is so important? How does this lesson apply to both dogs and people? Write and/or draw an explanation of your thinking.
- Re-read each of the lessons in Miss Moon and look carefully at the illustrations. In partners, small groups, or as a class talk about what is happening in each of the illustrations. How does each of the illustrations connect to their lesson? How do the illustrations deepen or change your understanding of the lesson?
- Imagine Miss Moon is not a governess for dogs but some other kind of domesticated animal. Select three of her lessons and show how they might apply if she were the governess to the following animals: cats, birds, fish or hamsters. Draw three pictures that help explain your thinking.
- “Collected in this volume are Miss Moon's twenty most important lessons for raising happy, healthy and well-mannered pooches—and people.” If these are the “most important” lessons, what lessons do you think didn't make the cut? Write three more lessons to add to Miss Moon's list.
- In all of the illustrations, Miss Moon and her dogs are very organized and calm. Do you think Miss Moon had to work hard to get her sixty-seven pooches to behave so well? Select one of the illustrations and draw a picture of how the dogs behaved in that situation before Miss Moon came into their lives.

### 2. STORY STRUCTURE RL

- Consider the structure of the book. Does Miss Moon have a typical storybook structure? For example, does it have a beginning, middle and ending? Is there an established setting? Does the story remind you of any other books that you have read which do not have typical storybook structures?
- Like any good story, Miss Moon has a problem that needs to be solved but it may not be as obvious as in other stories. What is the problem in the story? How is it solved?
- The illustrations are full of funny and interesting details. Can you spy the following details within the illustrations?
  - A dog dressed as a mermaid
  - A dog in a flowerpot
  - A tea towel with a giraffe on it
  - A dog catching a fish
  - A man in a green scarf and beret
  - A dog wearing eyeglasses
  - A picture frame with the letter M

- Look through the illustrations again and note anything that you found funny or interesting. How would the story be different if the book was not illustrated?
- Why do you think the island where Miss Moon takes care of all the dogs isn't named?
- Look carefully at the illustrations. What do you learn about the island from the illustrations? For example, what is the island's climate? What kinds of activities can you do?

### 3. MUST LOVE DOGS RL

- Write a description of Miss Wilhelmina Moon.
- What kind of qualities does a person need to be a successful governess to sixty-seven dogs of all shapes and sizes?
- Do you think you would be a successful governess to sixty-seven dogs? Why or why not? What made Miss Moon so successful in her job? Why did she choose to share what she had learned?
- Which of the following words describe Miss Moon: caring, sloppy, intelligent, boring, fun, adventurous. Refer directly to the book to explain your thinking.
- As a class, look at a few examples of job advertisements online or in a newspaper. Write an advertisement for Miss Moon's job. Make sure to include the necessary skills and experience a person would need to be successful in the role.

### 4. PETUNIA AND MITFORD ET AL. RL W

- Who are Petunia and Mitford? What role do they have in the story?
- Write a short story about one of Miss Moon's adventures with her canine charges from the perspective of Petunia or Mitford.
- Look at the class photo on the last page of the story. How are the dogs organized in the picture? Match up the listed names with the pictured pooches. Are there any names that you found to be exceptionally funny or interesting? Are there any dogs that you feel were misnamed? Choose one of the names that really made an impression on you and speculate how the dog was named.
- If you were a dog, would you want Miss Moon to be your governess? Why or why not?

### APPENDIX:

**Common Core State Standard**  
**Text Type: Literature** (Stories)

- RL Reading and Literature
- SL Speaking and Listening
- W Writing

PRE-READING DISCUSSION /  
ACTIVITES

Speaking and Listening  
1.1, 2.1

- 1. TWENTY LESSONS  
Reading and Literature 1.1  
Speaking and Listening 1.5
- 2. STORY STRUCTURE  
Reading and Literature 1.1, 1.3, 1.7, 2.5, 2.7, 3.7  
Writing 1.1, 3.3
- 3. MUST LOVE DOGS  
Reading and Literature 1.1, 3.3
- 4. PETUNIA AND MITFORD ET AL.  
Reading and Literature 1.1, 1.7, 2.7, 3.3, 3.7  
Writing 1.3, 2.3, 3.3



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WISE WORDS *from a* DOG GOVERNESS  
JANET HILL • ISBN 9781101917930



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