

Discussion guide for

NOODLE

and the



NO BONES DAY

By Jonathan Graziano



Illustrated by Dan Tavis

About the Book

Noodle and his human, Jonathan, do everything together. This usually means days filled with long walks examining the world around them, eating snacks together on park benches, and waving to familiar people. That is, until Noodle wakes up and doesn't want to leave his bed. No matter what Jonathan tries, Noodle is content to stay right where he is. Jonathan offers belly rubs and snacks, nose boops and snuggles, but still Noodle doesn't want to go outside to do his favorite things. Is something bothering Noodle? Should Jonathan be worried?

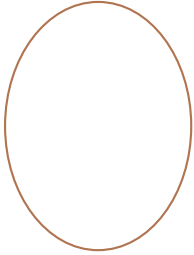
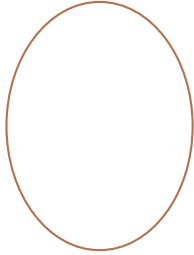
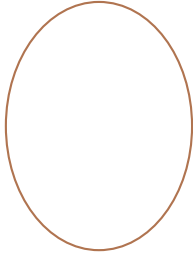
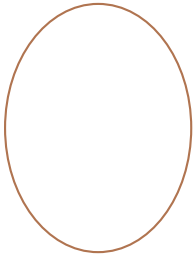
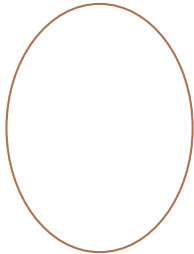
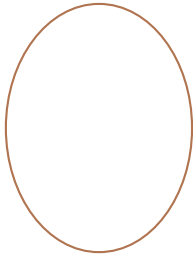
Not to fear! It's only a No Bones Day, one meant to be spent indoors surrounded by blankets while napping and enjoying bowls of snacks. In fact, Noodle's No Bones Day looks so appealing that Jonathan decides to join him. Whether it's a Bones Day or a No Bones Day, Jonathan and Noodle will happily spend it side by side.

Discussion Questions

1. Noodle is described as a “silly, stubborn, sweet old pug.” Describe how you see Noodle being silly, stubborn, or sweet in the book's pictures.
2. What kinds of things does Noodle see on his walks? Name some of the things you might see if you went for a walk around your neighborhood or school.
3. What is the difference between a Bones Day and a No Bones Day? Do you think it's important to have both kinds of days?
4. Noodle is “a pug who knows what he wants.” What does this tell you about his personality? Do you think he always knows what he wants? How does Jonathan help him on his No Bones Day?
5. How do you choose what you want? Does what you want ever change? Do other people around you want similar things?
6. Why do you think Jonathan says, “It's like he doesn't have bones”? How do you think Noodle feels when Jonathan tries to get him to sit up?
7. Why do you think Noodle stays in his bed? What do you think he's feeling? How does he share his mood with Jonathan? How does Jonathan show that he understands Noodle?
8. What might have happened if Jonathan had made Noodle go out? How might that have affected his mood?
9. What does Noodle enjoy while he's in bed? What makes Jonathan want to have a No Bones Day too?
10. What's your favorite part about staying home? What's your favorite part about going out? Is there ever a time when you don't feel like doing one or the other? What do you do when that happens?
11. *Noodle and the No Bones Day* tells us, “No matter what kind of day it was, every day was a great day for snacks.” What do you think every day is great for? Do you get to do this every day? How do you feel when you do? What happens if you don't?
12. Noodle's human, Jonathan, does many things with him. What are some of Jonathan's responsibilities in caring for Noodle? What might happen if Jonathan doesn't do these things? Why does Jonathan love spending time with Noodle?
13. Have you ever had a pet, or taken care of one for a friend? Did you enjoy it? What was the most surprising part about caring for an animal? What advice might you share with someone who is thinking of adopting one?

Extension Activities

1. How do you feel when you wake up in the morning? How does that change as you go through your day? Do any specific people, places, or situations make you feel a certain way? Use the blank faces below to draw how you felt throughout the day yesterday or today; you can use colors, facial expressions, or both. Use the spaces to the right to explain if there was something that changed your mood and, if so, what happened.

	_____		_____		_____
	_____		_____		_____
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- a. **Extension discussion:** Can you remember a time when you didn't know how you were feeling? Are there times you experience more than one emotion at the same time? Do you talk about your emotions? Do people around you talk about how they're feeling?
2. Noodle has a great relationship with Jonathan. Name someone in your life who is important to you. How have they supported you? Are they easy to talk to? Write them a letter or draw them a picture telling them how much you care about them and how you'd like to have a Bones Day or a No Bones Day with them. Describe or show what you might do during your day together.
 3. Noodle is a "silly, stubborn, sweet old pug." Choose two or three adjectives that describe you. Then act out for the class or illustrate your own scene(s) that show moments where you are feeling or acting like the words you've selected. What kind of activities do you enjoy?
- a. **Extension activity:** As a class, brainstorm a list of adjectives on the board that could be used to celebrate the different qualities you see in the people around you. Then partner with a classmate and tell them about a friend or family member and which of these adjectives best describe them.
4. Noodle finds he can enjoy both outside and inside activities, depending on the day. Write your favorite thing to do inside and your favorite thing to do outside on a piece of a paper, and then fold it in half and put it in a basket your teacher will hand to you. After your teacher mixes up the papers, they will ask each student to choose one and read it out loud so they can keep a tally on the board of everyone's favorite activities. How many different activities are listed? What activities are most common? Are there any new indoor or outdoor activities you'd like to try? Are you surprised by any of the results? Consider creating a chart to view the answers, noting what percentage overlap and how many different activities are included.
- a. **Alternative setup:** To show your favorite activities, your teacher may choose to have you pick from a selection of toys in the classroom or point to pictures from books or magazines.

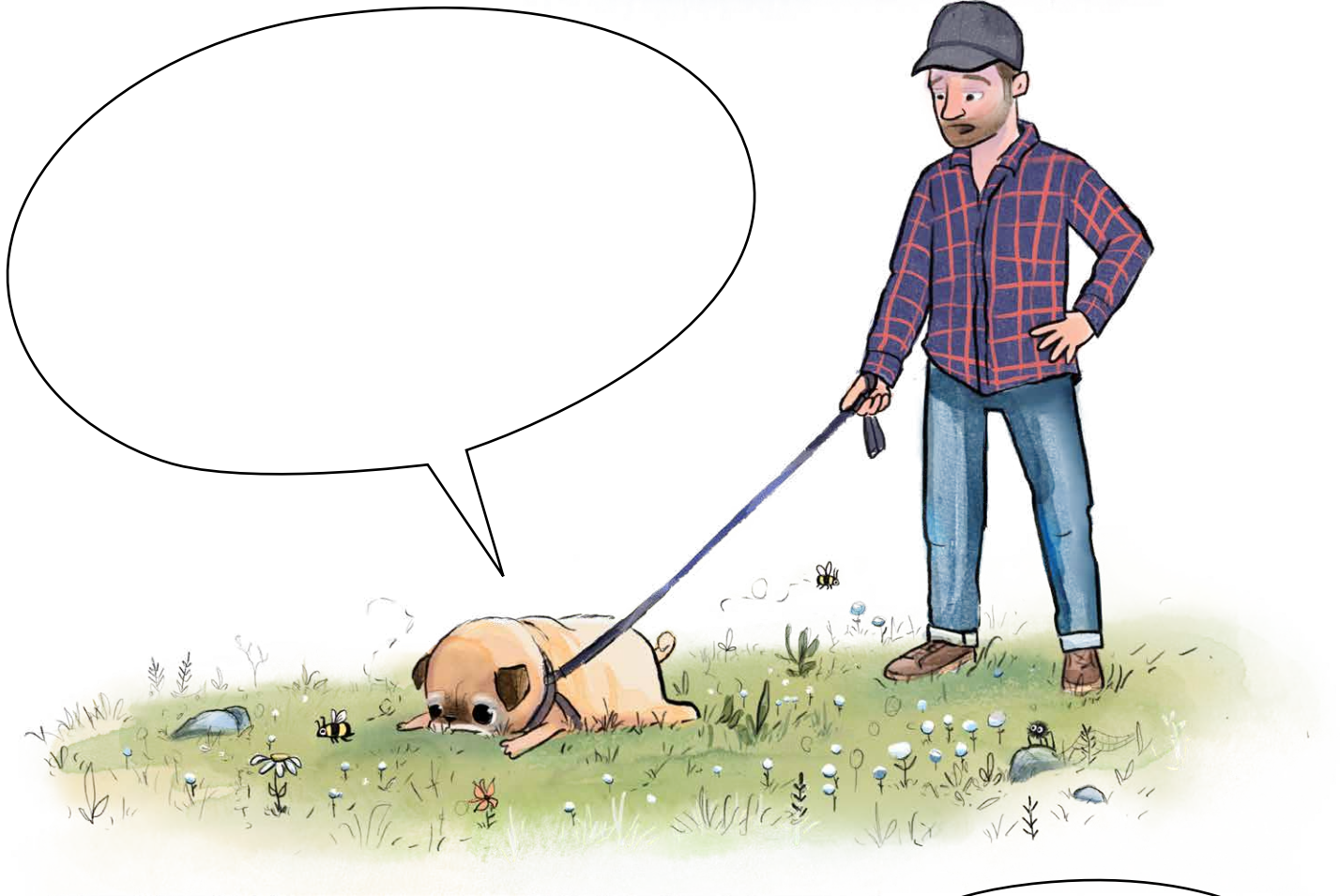
5. Noodle tells his human how he's feeling by staying in bed. How do you show people how you're feeling? Can you think of a time that you were really happy, and a time when you felt sad? Choose words or phrases from the box below to describe the scene or how you felt, and/or add your own as well. Use the left box to write the words or phrases that match what happened when you were feeling sad, and the right box to list those for when you felt happy. Then circle any of the words or phrases you put in both boxes.

friends or family were there for me sat quietly talked about my feelings thought about how I was feeling went to a new place met someone new went somewhere I've been before	went to see someone I've spent time with before overwhelmed confused upset busy bored excited worried was laughing	uncomfortable was smiling tired cheerful felt safe scared played by myself played in a group shared things snuggled	relaxed ran around did a favorite activity did a new activity felt this way before never felt this way before Bones Day No Bones Day
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<p>SAD</p>	<p>HAPPY</p>
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a. **Alternative setup:** Your teacher may choose to cut out the words and phrases and have you use a glue stick to paste them into the boxes, or use pictures.

6. If Noodle could talk, what do you think he would say to Jonathan in each of these scenes? Fill in the speech bubbles below with words or pictures of what Noodle might be thinking or what he would tell Jonathan.





7. In the Author's Note at the end of the book, Jonathan Graziano talks about animal shelters and animal rescues. Are there any in your area? Do you think they could use any help? Make a list with your classmates about ways to spread the word about these places and the adorable animals inside who need homes.
8. Select another picture book from [Simon & Schuster's Guide to Using Books about Feelings and Emotions](#). What kinds of emotions are those characters feeling? How do they show or talk about these feelings? How might those characters spend a Bones Day or a No Bones Day?

Guide written by Sarah Woodruff, who began her career as a teacher, spent ten years in book publishing, and now works for an environmental nonprofit based in Brooklyn.

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