

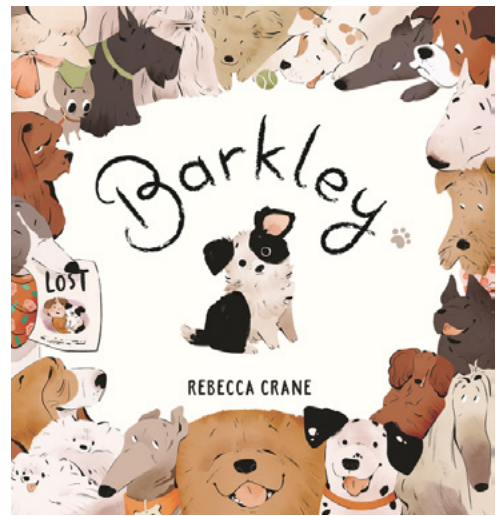
BARKLEY

Themes

Friendship • Differences • Self Esteem

Exploring the Story

Barkley describes himself in certain ways, such as being big, or being fluffy. But then when he compares himself to the other dogs he decides that he is not big or fluffy at all. Discuss with the children if they think he is correct? Ask them to consider if another dog being fluffier or bigger than Barkley means that Barkley is no longer big or fluffy at all? Go around the group and ask each child to name one of their own features or talents. Ask them to consider if someone else has more of that feature or talent than they do, does that negate their feature or talent altogether? To extend this activity, read *I'm the Best* by Lucy Cousins and discuss as a group.



When Barkley continues to compare himself to other dogs, how does he end up feeling? What does he end up thinking about himself? Ask the children to think about a time that they might have compared themselves to someone else (i.e. Have you ever wished that you looked the same or had the same skills as someone else?). What did they compare (talents, looks, belongings?) and how did it make them feel? How did they deal with those feelings and what did they learn from the experience?

Max is very sad when he loses Barkley. Do you think he is worried that Barkley is not the biggest dog? Or the fluffiest, or the fanciest dog? Why do you think Max is sad? What do you think he cares about most when he thinks of Barkley?

There are lots of wonderfully different characters in this book, both dog and human. Explore the illustrations with the group. Is there a human that looks like someone they know? Can they identify any of the different breeds of dogs. Do any of the children have a dog at home and do they know what kind of dog it is? Can they see a dog in the illustrations that looks like their dog? To extend this activity, use the library resources to find books on dog breeds to assist the group in finding out more about the dogs in the illustrations.

Activity

Lost Notice

When Barkley finds the lost sign that Max has made, he realises that Max knows him best of all and knows exactly what kind of dog he is. Read the lost notice closely. Think about if someone who loved you had to write a lost note to help you find your way home, what would they put on it? How do you think they would describe you? Use the template to create your own lost notice. Don't forget to draw a picture of yourself.

To extend this activity for older children, pair the class up and get each child to create a lost notice for their partner. If need be, remind the class that this is an exercise in kindness. How do the two notices compare?

Perfect Dog For Me

Think about all the different kinds of dogs that you have seen in the illustrations and that you looked up in the library resources. Now draw and collage a picture of your perfect dog. Have a think about what materials will help you to create your perfect dog, would she be fluffy or scruffy? Big or middle size? Spotty or fancy? Wearing a hat or carrying a stick? Use materials collected from your craft stash and from outside to give your dog lots of personality. Make sure you give your dog the perfect name as well.

Opposite Perspective

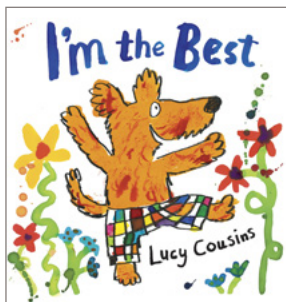
Barkley thinks he's fluffy, until he compares himself to a fluffier dog. He thinks he's a big dog, until he compares himself to a bigger dog. But if we change his perspective, Barkley will find that he is still a fluffy dog or a big dog. Using the attached template, find and cut out a dog who is:

- Smaller than Barkley
- Scruffier than Barkley
- Longer than Barkley

Help Barkley Find Max

Barkley needs your help to find his way back to Max. Develop problem solving and fine motor skills with this maze.

Related Titles



I'm The Best
Lucy Cousins
9781406329650

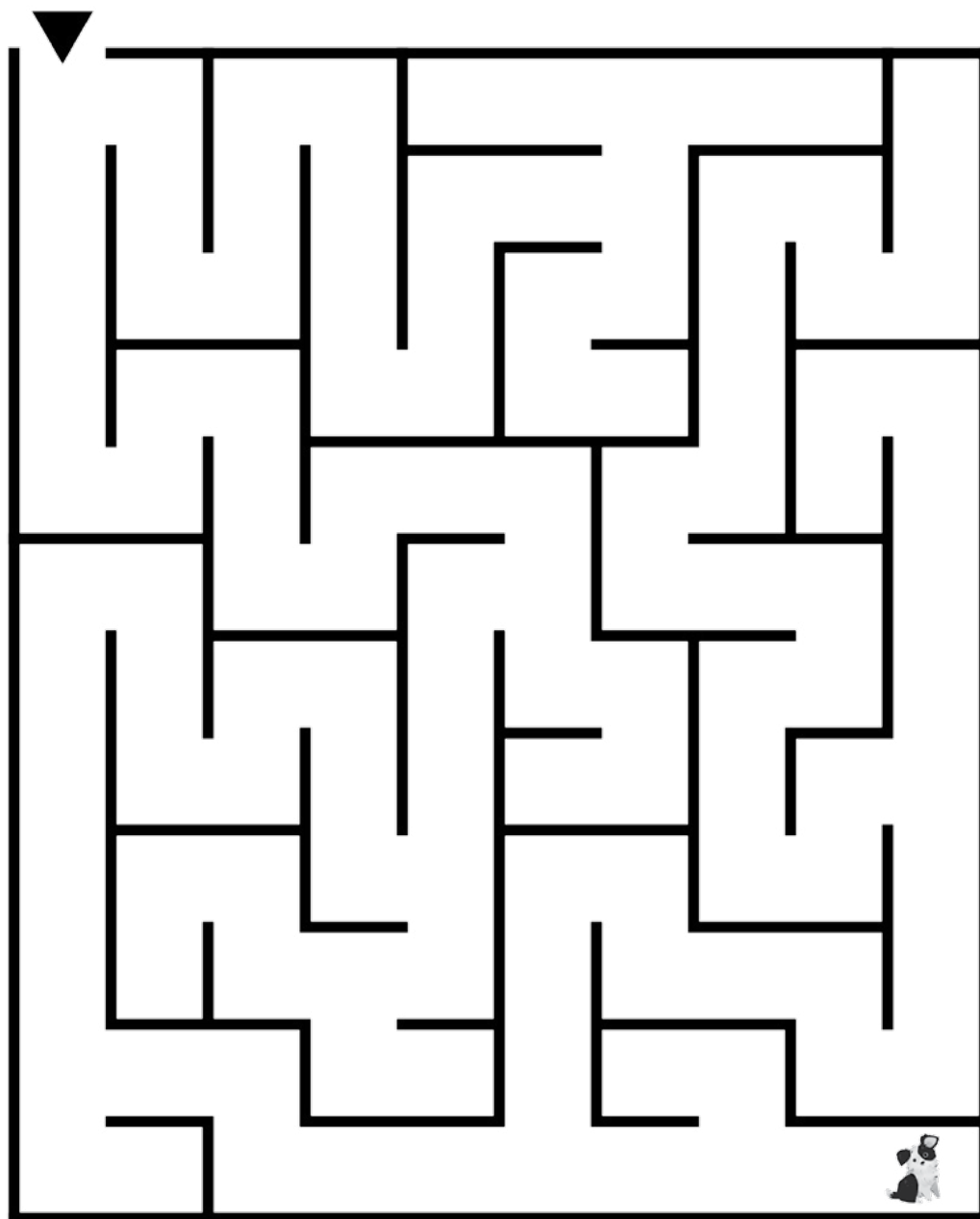






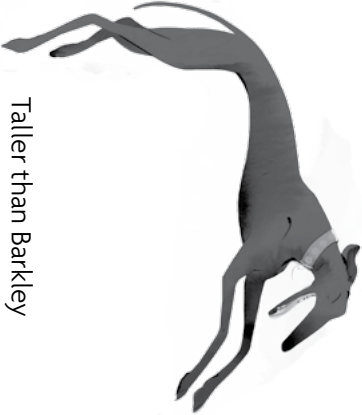

LOST

Name: _____

The name for my perfect dog would be _____

They will look like _____



 <p>Bigger than Barkley</p>	 <p>Barkley</p>	Smaller than Barkley
 <p>Fluffier than Barkley</p>	 <p>Barkley</p>	Scruffier than Barkley
 <p>Taller than Barkley</p>	 <p>Barkley</p>	Longer than Barkley



