

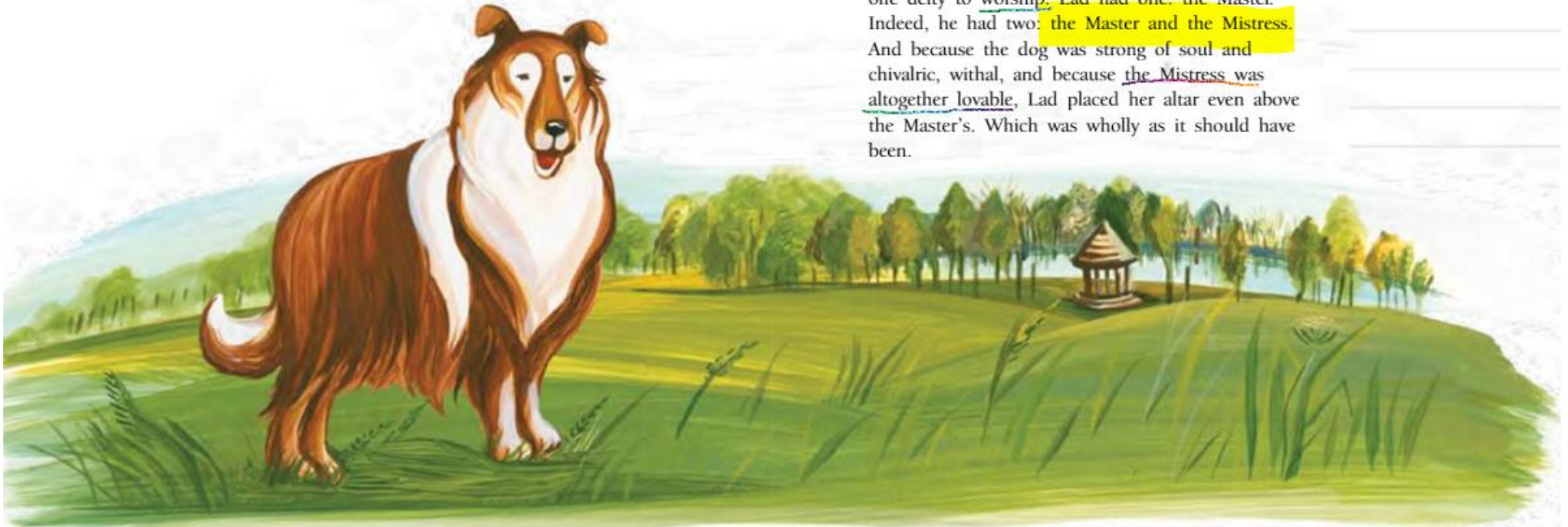
Remember
to annotate
as you read.

Quiet!

An excerpt from *Lad, A Dog: A Classic Story of a Courageous Collie*

by Albert Payson Terhune

Lad, A Dog: A Classic Story of a Courageous Collie was first published in 1919. It was based on a collection of stories that had first appeared in magazines. The book's author, Albert Payson Terhune, was a breeder of dogs. He raised and trained many collies, and Lad was his real-life pet. He also wrote other books that featured Lad as the main character. "The Place" in the following passage from Chapter 2 was Terhune's own Sunnybank estate, where he lived with his wife and dogs.



Notes

Notes

- 1 To Lad the real world was bounded by The Place. Outside, there were a certain number of miles of land and there were an uncertain number of people. But the miles were uninspiring, except for a cross-country tramp with the Master. And the people were foolish and strange folk who either stared at him—which always annoyed Lad— or else tried to pat him, which he hated. But The Place was— The Place.
- 2 Always, he had lived on The Place. He felt he owned it. It was assuredly his to enjoy, to guard, to patrol from high road to lake. It was his world.
- 3 The denizens of every world must have at least one deity to worship. Lad had one: the Master. Indeed, he had two: the Master and the Mistress. And because the dog was strong of soul and chivalric, withal, and because the Mistress was altogether lovable, Lad placed her altar even above the Master's. Which was wholly as it should have been.

Lad, a collie, lives on The Place, which he feels he is in charge of. He loves and obeys his owners, especially his Mistress.

Notes
Lad knows because of the gas law that he needs to treat guest politely. But he would much prefer to be left alone and not have to deal with them. He also has a special place at the place because he's allowed to go wherever he wants day and night.

Lad enjoys playing like a puppy with the mistress. He also thinks that he's better than all of the other people and animals that are around except for the mastery on the mistress.

4 There were other people at The Place — people to whom a dog must be courteous, as becomes a thoroughbred, and whose caresses he must accept. Very often, there were guests, too. And from puppyhood, Lad had been taught the sacredness of the Guest Law. Civilly, he would endure the pettings of these visiting outlanders. Gravelly, he would shake hands with them, on request. He would even permit them to paw him or haul him about, if they were of the obnoxious, dog-mauling breed. But the moment politeness would permit, he always withdrew, very quietly, from their reach and, if possible, from their sight as well.

5 Of all the dogs on The Place, big Lad alone had free run of the house, by day and by night.

6 He slept in a "cave" under the piano. He even had access to the sacred dining room, at mealtimes where always he lay to the left of the Master's chair.

7 With the Master, he would willingly unbend for a romp at any or all times. At the Mistress's behest he would play with all the silly abandon of a puppy, rolling on the ground at her feet; making as though to seize and crush one of her little shoes in his mighty jaws; wriggling and waving his legs in air when she buried her hand in the masses of his chest ruff; and otherwise comporting himself with complete loss of dignity.



Notes
8 But to all except these two, he was calmly unapproachable. From his earliest days he had never forgotten he was an aristocrat among inferiors. And, calmly aloof, he moved among his subjects.

9 Then, all at once, into the sweet routine of the House of Peace, came Horror.

10 It began on a blustery, sour October day. The Mistress had crossed the lake to the village, in her canoe, with Lad curled up in a furry heap in the prow. On the return trip, about fifty yards from shore, the canoe struck sharply and obliquely against a half-submerged log that a Fall freshet had swept down from the river above the lake. At the same moment a flaw of wind caught the canoe's quarter. And, after the manner of such eccentric craft, the canvas shell proceeded to turn turtle.

Notes
The mistress is canoeing across the Lake when a gust of wind catches the canoe and flips it upside down.

Notes

While canoeing across the Lake, they hit a log and the wind knocks the boat over. Lad looks around and sees that the mistress is not able to swim so he grabs her and tries to pull her to safety.



11 Into the ice-chill waters splashed its two occupants. Lad bobbed to the top, and glanced around at the Mistress to learn if this were a new practical joke. But, instantly, he saw it was no joke at all, so far as she was concerned.

3 12 Swathed and cramped by the folds of her heavy outing skirt, the Mistress was making no progress shoreward. And the dog flung himself through the water toward her with a rush that left his shoulders and half his back above the surface. In a second he had reached her and had caught her sweater-shoulder in his teeth.

13 She had the presence of mind to lie out straight, as though she were floating, and to fill her lungs with a swift intake of breath.

14 The dog's burden was thus made infinitely lighter than if she had struggled or had lain in a posture less easy for towing. Yet he made scant headway, until she wound one hand in his mane, and, still lying motionless and stiff, bade him loose his hold on her shoulder.

4 15 In this way, by sustained effort that wrenched every giant muscle in the collie's body, they came at last to land.

5 16 Vastly rejoiced was Lad, and inordinately proud of himself. And the plaudits of the Master and the Mistress were music to him. Indefinably, he understood he had done a very wonderful thing and that everybody on The Place was talking about him, and that all were trying to pet him at once.... Matters soon quieted down; and the incident seemed to end.



Notes

Lad pulls her to safety using all of his strength.

When they get back to the place, everyone is talking about Lad and trying to pet him.

The mistress gets pneumonia. Ladd realizes something is different when he is not able to escort her to the dining room and that he is no longer allowed to go into her room.



- 17 Instead, it had just begun.
- 18 For, within an hour, the Mistress—who, for days had been half-sick with a cold—was stricken with a chill, and by night she was in the first stages of pneumonia.
- 19 Then over The Place descended Gloom. A gloom Lad could not understand until he went upstairs at dinnertime to escort the Mistress, as usual, to the dining room. But to his light scratch at her door there was no reply. He scratched again and presently Master came out of the room and ordered him downstairs again.
- 20 Then from the Master's voice and look, Lad understood that something was terribly amiss. Also, as she did not appear at dinner and as he was for the first time in his life forbidden to go into her room, he knew the Mistress was the victim of whatever mishap had befallen.

21

A strange man with a black bag came to the house early in the evening, and he and the Master were closeted for an interminable time in the Mistress's room. Lad had crept dejectedly upstairs behind them; and sought to crowd into the room at their heels. The Master ordered him back and shut the door in his face.

22 Lad lay down on the threshold, his nose to the crack at the bottom of the door, and waited. He heard the murmur of speech.

23 Once he caught the Mistress's voice. It was changed and muffled and with a puzzling new note in it, but undeniably the Mistress's. And his tail thumped hopefully on the hall floor. But no one came to let him in. And, after the mandate to keep out, he dared not scratch for admittance.

24 "Those other dogs of yours outside there," the doctor said to the Master, as they went down the stairs, "raised a fearful racket when my car came down the drive, just now. Better send them all away somewhere till she is better. The house must be kept perfectly quiet."

25 "I'll send them over to the boarding kennels in the morning," he answered. "All except Lad. He and I are going to see this through, together. He'll be quiet, if I tell him to."



A man comes to the house with a black bag to check on the mistress. We hear the mistresses voice though it's different than before. The man says that all the dogs must leave so that the mistress can relax and quiet NIS. The pastor says he'll send them all away except for lad.