

## ABOUT

### *the Author*

**E**ILEEN SPINELLI is the author of over thirty-five picture books and novels, including *Something to Tell the Grandcows*, *Now It Is Winter*, *Now It Is Summer*, and *Do You Have a Cat?* (all Eerdmans). Eileen lives in Pennsylvania. Visit her website at [www.eileenspinelli.com](http://www.eileenspinelli.com).

### *the Illustrator*

**G**ERALDO VALÉRIO was born in Brazil and has created art for many children's books, including *The Hungry Ghosts* by Julius Lester (Penguin). He has collaborated before with Eileen Spinelli on *Do You Have a Cat?* (Eerdmans), as well as *When You Are Happy* and *Do You Have a Hat?* (both from Simon & Schuster). Geraldo lives in Toronto. Visit his website at [www.geraldovalerio.com](http://www.geraldovalerio.com).



## PRaise FOR

### *Do You Have a Dog?*

“Young readers itching for a furry friend will find only the benefits of dog ownership in Spinelli’s buoyant verse and Valério’s cheerful acrylics.”

— *Publishers Weekly*

“Valério’s artwork ... is decidedly high spirited and gay.”

— *Kirkus Reviews*

## DO YOU HAVE A DOG?

Written by Eileen Spinelli  
Illustrated by Geraldo Valério

Hardcover ISBN: 978-0-8028-5387-5 ❖ \$16.00  
10" x 10" ❖ 26 pages ❖ Ages 4–8

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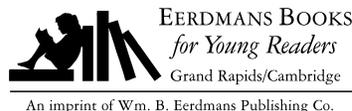
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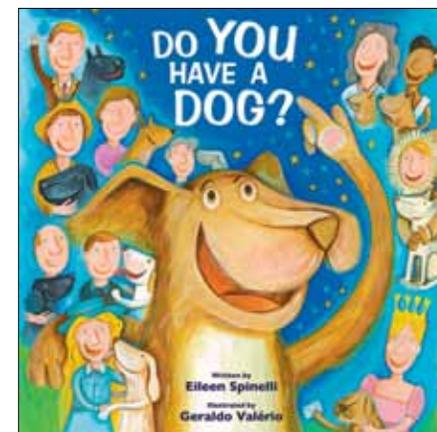
If you have any suggestions for using  
*Do You Have a Dog?*  
with young readers,  
we would be happy to hear from you.

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Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505



## DO YOU HAVE A DOG?

Written by  
**Eileen Spinelli**  
Illustrated by  
**Geraldo Valério**



*Do you have a dog?  
A dog who wakes you, wants to play?  
A dog who walks you every day?  
Or one who leaps or fetches sticks?  
A dog who does a lot of tricks?*

## THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

- ❖ Pets
- ❖ Companionship
- ❖ Historical figures

*Eerdmans Books for Young Readers*  
*Discussion Guide*

## **THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE READING THE BOOK**

1. Look at the figures on the cover. What kinds of people do you see? How are they dressed? Who do you think they might be? What do you think this book will be about?

2. Think about the book's title. Do you have a dog? If not, do you wish you could? Describe your dog, or imagine what kind of dog you would have if you could. Why do you think so many people choose to own dogs?

3. Find a children's encyclopedia and do some reading about dogs. What interesting facts can you learn? How many different types of dogs are there? How good are dogs' senses of sight, smell, and taste?

4. Can you think of any famous person — maybe an actor, an artist, or a public leader — who had a dog? Open the book and read the stories on the inside front cover about Annie Oakley, Orville Wright, and others. Do their stories remind you of another story you've heard about an animal?



## **VOCABULARY**

Look up the following terms in a reference book: pioneering, trekked, thrill, rapt, nook, clomping, jaunts, dainty, abstract, companionship.



## **QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON AFTER READING THE BOOK**

1. Many of the dogs in the book were useful to their owners, in addition to being good companions. Josephine Bonaparte's dog carried letters for her; Meriwether Lewis's dog saved him from a buffalo. In what other ways can dogs be useful?

2. Have you ever heard anyone say that a dog is "man's best friend"? Why do you think someone would say this? Do you agree with the statement? In what ways were the dogs described in this book best friends for their owners?

3. Read the short description of Sir Isaac Newton inside the back cover. Newton's dog caused a fire that destroyed much of Newton's work. Describe the scientist's reaction to this disaster. How do you think you would have reacted?

4. Admiral Richard Byrd's dog Iggy "kept Byrd warm, / a comfort in Antarctic storm." Many of the dogs in this book provided good comfort and companionship for their owners. How can dog owners be good companions for their dogs? What can they do to make sure that their dogs are comfortable and happy?

5. The author ends the book with the question, "Does a dog have you?" How is this question different from the question asked in title of the book and the rest of the text? Why do you think she changes the question?



## **ACTIVITIES**

1. There are many different kinds of dogs. Meriwether Lewis had a Newfoundland, and Billie Holiday had a boxer, for example. Make a list of as many dog breeds as you can find, and then choose several to research further. Make a chart of each breed's characteristics. What size are they? What color? What other characteristics do they typically have?

2. After you have read the short biographies inside the front and back covers, which historical figure in the book did you find the most interesting? With an adult, do some research to find out more about this person. Then make a poster to show what you have learned. Include pictures that you draw by hand, find online, or copy from a book.

3. Who else do you know that has a pet? It could be someone famous, a family member, or a friend. Write a poem about this person and his or her pet. Make your poem five lines long, like the poems in the book. Try to make the lines rhyme.

4. Dogs make good stories: Agatha Christie's dog Peter inspired a character in one of her detective stories, and Admiral Richard Byrd's dog had a whole book written about him. Choose a dog that you know — either yours or someone else's — and write a short story in which that dog is a character. It can be about events that actually happened, or about something you imagine happening.