

Lesson 67: Canine Companionship & Work — My Dog**PLL PART TWO****Animal Study • The Faithful Working Dog**

"What is your dog's name? How old is he? Is he large or small? What color is he? Has he a smooth or a shaggy coat of hair? What can he do? Has he any tricks? Can he swim? Is he a useful dog? In what way is he useful?"

Descriptive Focus: Adjectives of size, texture & color • Verbs of motion • Working utility.

1 PHYSICAL APPEARANCE & COAT TEXTURE

Describe the dog's physical characteristics using rich, precise adjectives:

1. Name & Age: My dog's name is _____, and he is _____ old.

2. Size & Color: He is a _____ dog, and his color is _____.

3. Coat Texture: Does he have a smooth or a shaggy coat of hair?

His coat of hair is _____.

2 CLEVER TRICKS, SWIMMING & UTILITY

Describe what your faithful companion can do to help and protect your family:

1. Swimming & Play: Can he swim? What athletic feats can he perform?

He can _____.

2. Clever Tricks: Name one or two tricks your dog has learned:

He knows how to _____.

3. Practical Use: In what important ways is he a useful animal?

He is useful because he _____.

3 NARRATIVE PARAGRAPH • "MY DOG"

Write a complete, spirited 3-to-4 sentence paragraph describing your dog:

Lesson 67 Teacher Key: Canine Description & Utility

ANSWER KEY & RUBRIC

Pedagogical Framework • Animal Study & Character

Instructional Value: Deepening sensory vocabulary (contrasting textures: *smooth* vs. *shaggy*), recognizing canine service (herding, guarding, fetching), and structuring an expository paragraph with clear thematic focus.

1 SECTION 1: APPEARANCE & ADJECTIVE SOLUTIONS

- 1. **Proper Capitalization:** Verify dog's name is capitalized (*Rover, Shep, Barnaby, Scout*).
- 2. **Size & Color:** "He is a large dog, and his color is black and white."
- 3. **Coat Texture:** "His coat of hair is thick and shaggy." (or smooth and glossy).

2 SECTION 2: UTILITY & SKILLS SOLUTIONS

- 1. **Athletic Skills:** "He can swim across the river and fetch thrown sticks from the water."
- 2. **Tricks:** "He knows how to shake hands, beg for biscuits, and roll over on the grass."
- 3. **Working Utility:** "He is useful because he guards our house at night, keeps foxes away, and herds cattle in the pasture."

3 SECTION 3: MODEL PARAGRAPH COMPOSITION

Exemplary Model Paragraph:
"My faithful dog is a large sheepdog named Shep with a thick, shaggy coat of grey and white hair. He loves to swim in the cool pond and fetch wooden sticks across the meadow. Shep is a very useful working dog because he guards our barn and helps drive the cows home each evening."

4 DIAGNOSTIC SCORING RUBRIC (4 PERFORMANCE LEVELS)

Evaluation Domain	4 • Exemplary	3 • Proficient	2 • Developing / Emerging
Sensory Adjectives	Employs vivid, contrasting adjectives for size, coat texture (<i>shaggy, sleek, rough</i>), and coloring.	Uses appropriate descriptive adjectives for physical appearance.	Relies on simplistic adjectives (*good, nice*) without sensory precision.
Utility & Action Verbs	Clearly articulates specific working duties (guarding, herding, retrieving) with energetic action verbs.	Identifies basic utility (barks at strangers, plays fetch).	Struggles to identify practical usefulness.
Paragraph Structure	Weaves appearance, tricks, and utility into a flowing, cohesive narrative with varied sentence beginnings.	Constructs a logical paragraph with complete sentences.	Disconnected sentences with mechanical sentence starters.
Handwriting & Mechanics	Clean penmanship on baseline; capitalization of proper names; commas and periods accurately placed.	Legible handwriting with minor punctuation slips.	Handwriting uneven, cramped, or baseline omitted.