

Kid Convinces Dog Lovers to Start Adopting Dogs

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. skyrocket /'skī,rākət/ (of a price, rate, or amount) increase very steeply or rapidly.
Example: The cost of housing has skyrocketed.
2. resist /rə'zist/ to refuse to accept
Example: I cannot resist his charm.
3. plea /plē/ an appeal or request for something, made in an intense or emotional way
Example: We are making a plea to all companies to stop polluting the environment.
4. advocacy /'advəkəsē/ public support for an idea, plan, or way of doing something
Example: She is renowned for her advocacy of human rights.
5. persuasive /pər'swāsiv,pər'swāziv/ making you want to do or believe a particular thing
Example: The president's speech was very persuasive.



The words of an 8-year old written in crayon convinced dog lovers to start adopting dogs from a local shelter.

Their hand-written notes resulted in **skyrocketing** adoption rates for the dogs least likely to get adopted in the Virginia capital.

No human could **resist** a **plea** like, "If you do adopt me, I hope I will brighten up your Sundays like the sun. You'll be my Sunday Special, and I hope I'll be yours!"

Kensley Jones, a second-grade teacher at a church in Richmond, is also a volunteer at Richmond Animal Care and Control. She needed to come up with an idea for a writing assignment, and had the idea to try and boost adoption rates by giving the dogs their own **advocacy** voice.

"The idea just came to me to connect **persuasive** writing with these pets that need a forever home," Jones told the Washington Post, adding that it was "a way that I could make their

writing real for [the students], and actually make an impact on the world and our Richmond community.” (Good News Network)

DISCUSSION

1. Are homeless pets an issue in your area or country?
2. What have been the causes of such situations?
3. Have you tried visiting an animal shelter before?
4. What happens to the animals in a shelter when they don't get adopted?
5. Are there animal rights groups where you live?
6. What can we do to help those pets in shelters?