TEACHER READING GUIDE

Super Staffie and his Ninja Sidekick Save Christmas | Years 1 to 4 (ages 5 to 9)

About the book

It's Christmas Eve and Santa's rocket-powered sleigh has broken down on a snowy rooftop. Two Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Freddie and George, suit up as Super Staffie and his Ninja Sidekick and, with the help of Stella the Chief Elf and Dave the Chief Engineer Elf, get the sleigh flying again. On Christmas morning there's a surprise waiting under the tree.

Written and illustrated by Leisa and Andy Coles from St Helens, about their real dogs. 44 full-colour A4 pages. Paperback ISBN 978-1-0654746-0-9.

The characters

Freddie (Super Staffie): brave, bouncy and very fond of cheese
George (the Ninja Sidekick): gentle and loyal, happiest under a blanket
Vinnie (Lil' Zoomie): the newest pup, full of zoomies
Santa: needs help on his busiest night
Stella: the Chief Elf
Dave: the Chief Engineer Elf, who can fix anything mechanical

Themes to explore

- Teamwork: the sleigh only flies because everyone helps
- Kindness and helping others
- Being brave
- Pets as part of the family
- Christmas traditions

Curriculum links

English: reading comprehension, prediction, character description, letter writing. PSHE: friendship, helping others, caring for animals, staying safe around dogs. Art and D&T: designing a superhero costume, designing a sleigh repair.

TALK ABOUT IT

Discussion questions for before, during and after reading

Before reading

1. Look at the cover. Who do you think the two heroes are?
2. What do you think a ninja sidekick does?
3. Do you have a pet? What would its superpower be?

During reading

4. Why do you think Santa's sleigh broke down?
5. How do Freddie and George feel when they see Santa on the roof? How can you tell?
6. What would you do if you found Santa stuck on your roof?
7. Why do you think Super Staffie needed his sidekick?

After reading

8. Who helped to fix the sleigh? Could one of them have done it alone?
9. Who do you think was hiding in the big present on Christmas morning?
10. Freddie and George are real dogs. Why do you think the authors wrote a story about them?

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ACTIVITIES

Ideas for the classroom

1. Design a superhero pet

Children draw a pet (real or imaginary) as a superhero, with a costume, a badge and a superhero name, then write three sentences about its superpower. Use the writing frame on page 4.

2. A thank-you letter from Santa

Children write the letter Santa might send to Freddie and George after Christmas. What would he thank them for? What might he send them? (Freddie would ask for cheese.)

3. Fix the sleigh (D&T challenge)

Dave the Chief Engineer Elf needs a new part for Santa's sleigh. In small groups, children design and label a gadget to get the sleigh flying, then present it to the class.

4. Be a dog's best friend (PSHE)

Talk through the six dog safety rules on the free poster: ask first, let them sniff, be gentle, let them rest, stay calm, be a tree. Act out 'be a tree' together.

5. Freeze frame

In groups, children make a freeze frame of their favourite moment in the story. Others guess the scene and say what each character might be thinking.

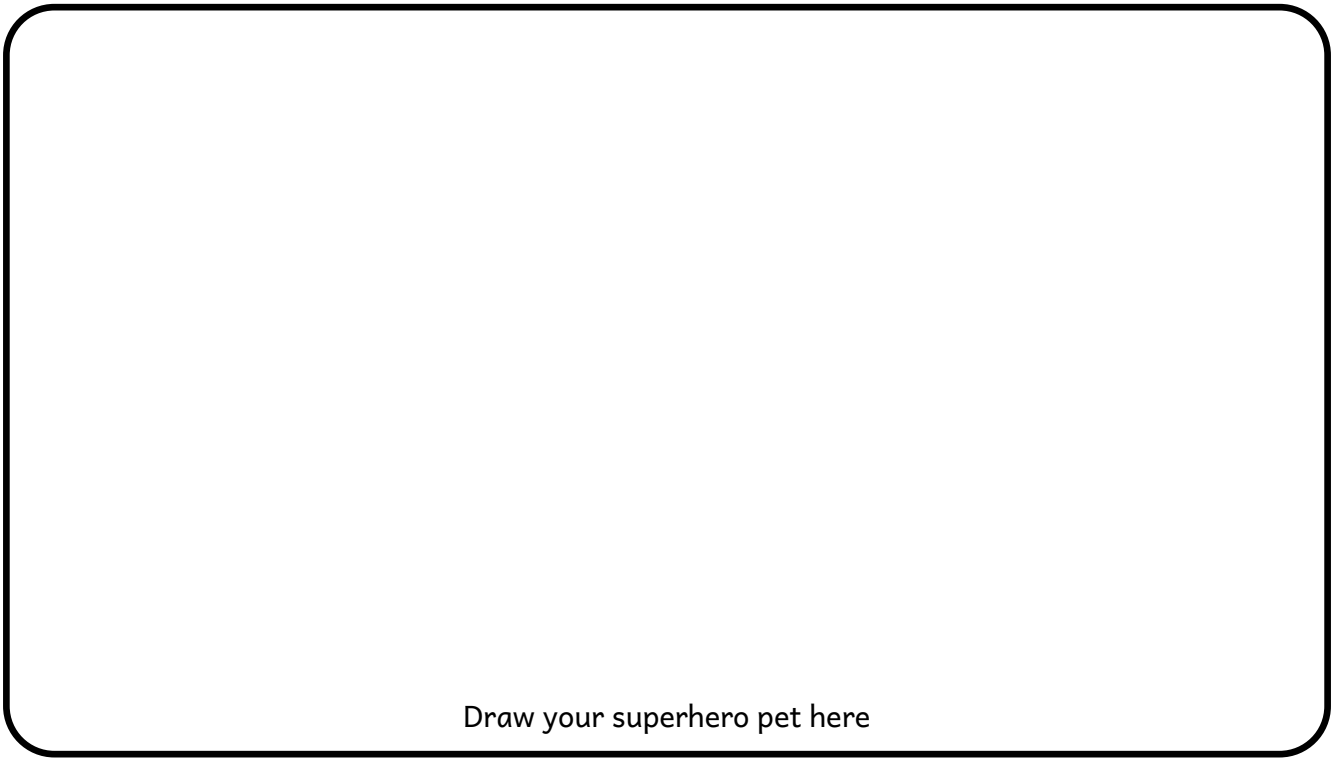
More free printables, including the dog safety poster, a dog word search and a colouring page, are at superstaffie.co.uk.

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SUPER STAFFIE ADVENTURES

MY SUPERHERO PET

Name: _____ Class: _____



My superhero pet is called _____

_____

Its superpower is _____

_____

Its costume has _____

_____

It helps people by _____

_____

Its favourite snack is _____

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