



Fur-ever Friend or Ruff Decision?



Social Scenarios

 upschool

A series of social situations designed to allow children to develop the skills of leadership, decision-making and perspective. Let's put ourselves in the shoes of others before making any decisions.

Can you make a decision and keep everyone satisfied?

Created by



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Canva

Your Instructions

This week, we have an exciting challenge for you! Imagine you are in Mrs. Anderson’s shoes, a parent trying to decide whether adopting a dog is the right choice for her family. Owning a pet is a big responsibility, and decisions like this require careful thought.

The theme for this week is “Responsibility”—understanding that choices have long-term consequences and that taking care of another living being requires commitment and effort.

To get started, read through Mrs. Anderson’s story and consider all perspectives. Work with your team to weigh the benefits and challenges of adopting a pet. Then, discuss your ideas, present your reasoning, and vote on the best solution.

Remember, responsibility isn’t just about making a decision—it’s about considering how that decision will affect others for years to come. Let’s help Mrs. Anderson and her family make the best choice!

Step	Action
1	Step into Mrs. Anderson’s Shoes: Imagine you are a parent deciding whether to adopt a pet.
2	Understand the Importance of Responsibility: Explore what it means to make a long-term commitment.
3	Read the Scenario: Go through Mrs. Anderson’s story and consider the different perspectives involved.
4	Discuss as a Team: Share your thoughts and listen to different viewpoints.
5	Analyse the Impact: Consider the possible consequences of adopting or not adopting a dog.
6	Brainstorm Solutions: Work as a group to find the best, most responsible choice.
7	Prepare a 2-Minute Talk: Develop a short presentation explaining your decision and its reasoning.
8	Present Your Decision: Share your choice with the class and justify your reasoning.
9	Vote as a Class: Cast an anonymous vote to decide the best course of action.
10	Reflect and Discuss: Talk about what you learned and how responsibility influences decisions.

Social Scenario #7

Fur-ever Friend or Ruff Decision?

'I'm not sure if a dog is the answer. Can you help?'

Step into the shoes of Mrs. Anderson, a caring parent. After reading her story, gather in your groups and think about what she should do next. Remember, every choice has its own set of fun times and challenges. You've got 1 hour to think and chat before sharing your thoughts with the class!



Read the scenario below and help Mrs. Anderson decide.

Mrs. Anderson's kids have one big wish: they want a pet dog! They've talked about it every day, shown her pictures of cute puppies, and even promised to help take care of it. They say having a dog will be super fun, and they can play with it all day. They have found a dog in the local pet sanctuary who needs saving.

But Mrs. Anderson knows that while dogs are lovely, they're also a big responsibility. Dogs need daily walks, regular vet check-ups, and lots of love and attention. They're not just for a few days or even a few years, but for a long time – almost 20 years! She wonders if her children understand this long-term commitment.

On the other hand, Mrs. Anderson also knows that having a pet can teach kids about responsibility, kindness, and the joy of friendship. It's not just about play; it's about learning to care for another living being.

RESPONSIBILITY is when we understand the things that we must do and we act upon it.



Mrs. Anderson

'I want my kids to be happy, but I also want to make sure we're ready for such a big step.'

Her kids

'We promise to take care of the dog and be its best friends!'

The dog

'I want a loving home where I'm cared for and have fun!'

Here are some questions to help you think:

- Why do Mrs. Anderson's kids want a dog so much?
- What are some fun things about having a dog? What are some challenges?
- How can a pet help kids learn and grow?
- Is there a way for the family to experience having a dog before making a long-term decision?
- What if the kids lose interest after a while? What would Mrs. Anderson do?
- Could there be other pets that might be a good fit for the family?
- How can Mrs. Anderson talk to her kids about the responsibility of having a pet?
- What happens if they decide not to get a dog right now? Can they reconsider in the future?

Key Vocabulary

Dog Pet

Responsibility Care

Decision Play

Commitment Family

Learn Friendship



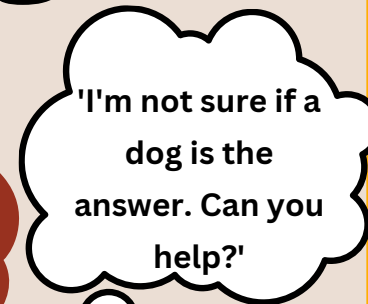
Before you Begin



Here are a few things to remember!

Imagination and Creativity

You are about to imagine that you are somebody else. From this point onwards, you must put yourself in the shoes of Mrs Anderson.



Teamwork and Communication

To make such big decisions like these, you'll need to find a group of people to help you discuss the various options before you make your final decision. Teamwork makes the dream work.



Skills you will Develop

- Empathy
- Global Citizenship
- Active Listening
- Collaboration
- Teamwork
- Critical Thinking
- Leadership
- Perspective



Now, let's get started!



Perspective is Everything

Before making a decision, it's essential to consider how it will affect everyone involved. This means putting yourself in their position and thinking about their feelings, needs, and responsibilities. By taking the time to understand different perspectives, we can make a thoughtful and fair choice—one that balances both short-term desires and long-term commitments.

*"We can judge the heart of a person
by his treatment of animals."*

— Immanuel Kant



The Children

Follow the flowchart provided below and work together as a team to answer all the questions. Once you have reached a decision, remember to write your key message to the children at the bottom of the page.



' We promise to take care of the dog and be its best friends!'



If we get a new pet dog how will the children be affected?



If we don't get a new pet dog how will the children be affected?



What are the negative effects?

What are the positive effects?

How can we protect them from the negative impacts?

Overall thoughts

Your message to the children.



The Dog

Follow the flowchart provided below and work together as a team to answer all the questions. Once you have reached a decision, remember to write your key message to the dog at the bottom of the page.



'I want a loving home where I'm cared for and have fun!'

If we get a new pet dog how will the dog be affected?

If we don't get a new pet dog how will the dog be affected?

What are the negative effects?

What are the positive effects?

How can we protect the dog from the negative impacts?

Overall thoughts

Your message to the the dog.

Mrs Anderson

Follow the flowchart provided below and work together as a team to answer all the questions. Once you have reached a decision, remember to write your key message to the Mrs Anderson at the bottom of the page.



' I want my kids to be happy, but I also want to make sure we're ready for such a big step.'

If we get the dog how will Mrs Anderson be affected?

If we do not get the dog how will Mrs Anderson be affected?

What are the negative effects?

What are the positive effects?

How can we protect her from the negative impacts?

Overall thoughts

Your message to the Mrs Anderson

Sharing Your Decision

Once you have discussed the situation from all perspectives, it is now time to share your decision with the rest of the class. Prepare a **2-minute speech** to communicate your decision, explain the rationale behind it, and outline your plans to ensure everyone's satisfaction. Good luck!



Today, I'd like to share something very close to my heart that reflects the deep considerations we must make in life. I stand before you, not just as a mother, but as someone who's weighing the joys and responsibilities that come with welcoming a new family member—a dog. This isn't just a fleeting desire; it's a choice that's brimming with affection and an enduring promise to care. It's about teaching my children the values of responsibility, compassion, and the beauty of a lifelong friendship. Please join me as I reflect on this decision, which is much more than bringing home a pet—it's about nurturing the warmth of companionship and the lifelong lessons it will instill in us all.



Here are five simple steps on delivering a good speech:

Plan Your Talk: Pick a subject that excites you and learn all about it. Write down the main ideas you want to share and practice saying them out loud.

Catch Their Interest: Begin with something that will make everyone want to listen, like a cool fact, a short story, or a question that makes them think.

Speak Up and Stand Tall: Talk in a clear voice so everyone can hear you, look at your classmates, and don't rush. Confidence is key!

Show and Tell: If you can, use pictures, a diagram, or something you can hold to make your speech more interesting and help explain your ideas.

Finish Strong: Remind everyone of what you told them and end with something they'll remember, like a fun idea or a question that keeps them thinking.

Cast Your Vote

Once all groups have delivered their speeches, it's time for an anonymous class vote to see the public opinion. This is like how democratic nations vote in new leaders or make decisions on how the country should be run. This is your chance to use your voice to make a difference and save the world.

Although this scenario is fictional, one day you will be asked to cast your vote on a real issue that will affect people you have never met. This week, we will practice these essential skills.

As a class, write your decision on a piece of paper, and after everyone has voted, tally the totals and announce the decision to the class. Everyone deserves a voice, and this is your chance to use yours.

