

Read an episode of the story and watch/read the assigned materials presented above. Answer the following questions: **STORY IS AFTER THIS**

1. Which behavioristic ideas do the boys use for training their dog? Provide at least one example from the episode for each idea.
2. Was the boys' decision to demonstrate their dog's tricks to many different people before the main show reasonable? Explain, why. Use behaviorist theory for your explanation.
3. Was Vitya right to say that their dog stopped reacting properly because it has overeaten sweets and other food given to it as rewards? Support your opinion.
4. Which psychological phenomenon would explain that the dog tried to escape from the stage when the audience screamed and applauded loudly?
 - a. Pavlov's classical conditioning
 - b. Skinner's operant conditioning
 - c. Bandura's learning through observation and imitation

Requirements:

- a. 60 -100 words for each answer; less than 60 words will be penalized.
- b. keywords/phrases in each answer should be put in bold.

STORY

I didn't like the idea of Kostya having taught Lobzik to count without me, because I had wanted to help teach it too. But now of course it was too late.

"Don't worry," said Kostya. "I'm bound to meet another homeless dog on the street someday, and I'll give it to you to train yourself." "I don't want to train a dog by myself," I said. "I like to do things together. It's more fun that way."

"But I'd help you. We would train it together, and then you would have a trained dog too."

"No," I said. "It's no good. As soon as you get your hands on a new dog, you'll begin training it and forget all about your lessons. Let's put it off till the summer."

"All right let's put it off. And we'll tell the fellows that we both trained Lobzik. After all, we began training it together. And we'll perform together with it at the New Year's party."

"What if it gets stage-fright?" I said. "We'll have to train it first not to be afraid of people." "How can we do that?"

"We ought to take it to some place where there are more people. Let's take it over to my place after we've done our lessons. We'll show it off to my folks."

When we finished our lessons, Kostya put Lobzik's collar and leash on, and we went over to my place. Aunt Nadya and Uncle Serge happened to be visiting us that day.

"Now we're going to show you a dog who can count," I said. "You must all pretend you are at the theatre and watch carefully."

We put Lobzik on a chair. Kostya took his strips of cardboard with figures out of his pocket and started the act. Lobzik gave all the right answers. Then I had a wonderful idea. Instead of showing Lobzik the figures I said: "Now, Lobzik, what is two times two?"

Lobzik barked four times. Of course, I snapped my fingers at the right moment.

Lika was delighted: "Look at that! It can multiply too!"

Everyone praised us for having trained Lobzik so well, and we told them that we were going to perform with it at our school New Year's party.

"Have you got costumes for your performance?" Lika asked.

"What do we need costumes for?" I said.

"It will be dull without costumes," said Lika. "I'll make you those funny tall hats that circus clowns wear."

"What will you make them out of?"

"I have some coloured paper. I bought it for the New Year tree."

"All right," I said. "It will be better with hats, I suppose."

"Can't you make one for Lobzik as well?" asked Kostya.

"No, Lobzik would look awfully funny in a clown's hat. I'll make a collar for him out of tinfoil."

"All right," I said.

"Now let's go to our neighbour Gleb and show him what Lobzik can do," Kostya suggested.

We went to Gleb, and from Gleb we went to Jury, and from there to Anatoly. We showed off Lobzik everywhere, and it got all sorts of wonderful tidbits in reward. We wound up at Ivan. Ivan's parents had company that evening. We were delighted. We would have a real rehearsal! But the whole thing was a terrible flop. Lobzik didn't give a single correct answer! It got everything mixed up and finally stopped barking altogether. We were so ashamed we didn't know where to look. What a disgrace, especially after the way we had boasted about our wonderful dog with the mathematical mind!

"What do you think happened to it?" said Kostya when we were outside.

He threw Lobzik a piece of sugar, but Lobzik spat it out. "That's what it is," I said. "It's had too much to eat, that's why it doesn't bother to answer properly."

"Suppose it does the same thing at the school party?" said Kostya. "It'll disgrace us in front of the whole school. Perhaps we'd better call it off!"

"Nothing of the kind," I said. "It's too late to call it off now. We said we would do it, so we've got to go through with it."

The whole day before the party Kostya was nervous. He couldn't sit still, and he wouldn't give Lobzik any peace.

"Leave it alone," I said. "You'll get it so tired that by the evening it won't want to bark at all."

"All right, I won't bother it anymore. Go and have a rest, Lobzik."

We left Lobzik and went off to prepare for the performance. Lika had made us two hats: mine was blue with little silver stars, and Kostya's was green with golden stars. She had made us silver collars and gold cuffs besides. We tried them on and were very pleased with them. We looked exactly like real circus performers. There was a silver collar for Lobzik too.

At last it was time to go to school. While the first half of the concert was going on, we sat in the hall with Lobzik to get it used to the audience. Then we went behind to wait our turn and watch all the other turns. We put on our costumes and fitted Lobzik's collar round its neck. Then the curtain rose, and everyone saw Kostya and me in our shiny hats walking on to the stage. Kostya went ahead with Lobzik on the leash, and I followed with the attach case where we kept the things we needed for the performance. Kostya put Lobzik on a stool in the middle of the stage and turned to the audience.

"Good evening, everybody!" he said. "It gives us great pleasure to introduce Lobzik, the dog with the mathematical mind. So far, it has only learned to count up to ten, but it is still in training and next time it will do much better. We ask everybody to sit very quiet because this is Lobzik's first public appearance and it might get stage-fright if it's noisy."

Kostya was obviously very nervous himself because his voice shook when he spoke. I was a bit nervous too. In fact, if I need to speak, I'm sure I wouldn't have been able to say a word.

"And now we shall begin," said Kostya.

I took out three blocks of wood and laid them side by side on the table in front of Lobzik so that everyone could see them.

"Now Lobzik will tell us how many blocks of wood there are on the table," Kostya announced. "Lobzik, count!"

Lobzik barked three times.

The boys clapped loudly and shouted with excitement, and Lobzik got so scared he jumped off the chair and tried to run away. But Kostya caught it, shoved a bit of sugar into its mouth and put it back on the chair. While Lobzik was crunching the sugar, all quieted down. I got another block of wood out of the case and put it alongside the three.

"How many blocks are there now?" Kostya asked. Lobzik barked four times.

Again the boys applauded, and again Lobzik tried to run away, but Kostya caught him in time and stuck another bit of sugar in his mouth.

I put three more blocks of wood on the table and Lobzik barked seven times.

Then I took a piece of cardboard with the figure "2" on it and showed it to the audience.

"What figure is that?" Kostya asked Lobzik.

Lobzik barked twice.

We showed Lobzik all kinds of figures and he gave all the right answers.

Then Kostya said: "Now tell us, what is two times two? Twice three?. Three plus four?"

Lobzik correctly barked each time. The audience went on clapping, but by now Lobzik was used to it and wasn't scared any more. I wasn't scared any more either. I told the boys that our Lobzik could do arithmetic problems as well, and I invited them to give it any problem, with figures up to ten.

A boy in the front row got up and gave Lobzik this problem to solve: "A bottle with the cork cost ten cents. The bottle cost eight cents more than the cork. How much each did the bottle and the cork cost?"

"Now then, Lobzik," I said. "Put on your thinking cap and give us the answer."

But, of course, it was me who had to do the thinking. I tackled the problem in my head: two cents for the cork, eight cents for the bottle. Ten cents for both!

"All right, Lobzik, how much did the cork cost?"

Lobzik barked twice. "And the bottle?"

Lobzik barked eight times.

You ought to have heard what a row they made!

"Wrong answer!" they shouted. "The dog has made a mistake!"

"What mistake?" I said. "If the bottle and the cork together cost ten, that means the bottle cost eight and the cork two."

"But the problem says the bottle cost eight cents more than the cork. If the cork cost two cents, the bottle ought to cost ten, but they cost ten cents together," the boys explained.

I realized I had slipped up.

"You hear that, Lobzik? You've made a mistake," I said. "Now think again and give us the right answer."

But of course, Lobzik just sat there looking bright while I had to rack my poor brains.

"Just a minute," I said to the boys, "give it a chance to work it out."

"That's right," shouted the boys. "Don't hurry it. It's a bit hard for a dog."

I stood there trying desperately to do the sum in my head. "If the bottle costs eight cents more than the cork, that means the cork costs two cents and the bottle ten. But in that case, they would cost twelve cents together, and the problem says they cost ten. If the cork costs two cents and the bottle eight, the bottle is only six cents dearer." What was wrong with me? I was going round in circles!

"Give it a couple more minutes," I said to the audience. "It'll soon have the right answer."

"Give it as long as it likes," they shouted back. "It's only a dog. Can't expect it to do a sum like that right off the bat."

"Can't expect anybody to do the blinking thing," I thought, and started racking my brains again.

"Listen, you dunce," Kostya hissed. "The cork costs one cent, not two!"

Now I saw what was wrong! Of course, the cork costs one cent, and the bottle eight cents more, that makes nine, and together they cost ten.

"It's got it!" I shouted. "Attention. Lobzik is ready to give you the answer."

The boys quieted down.

"Now, Lobzik, how much does the cork cost?"

Lobzik barked once.

"Hurrah!" shouted the boys.

"Hush!" I said. "That's not the whole problem yet. Let it tell us how much the bottle costs."

Lobzik barked nine times.

That brought the house down! The boys clapped and shouted and stamped their feet with joy.

"Wonderful dog!" they said. "It made a mistake, but it gave the correct answer in the end."

Thus, ended Lobzik's first public appearance.