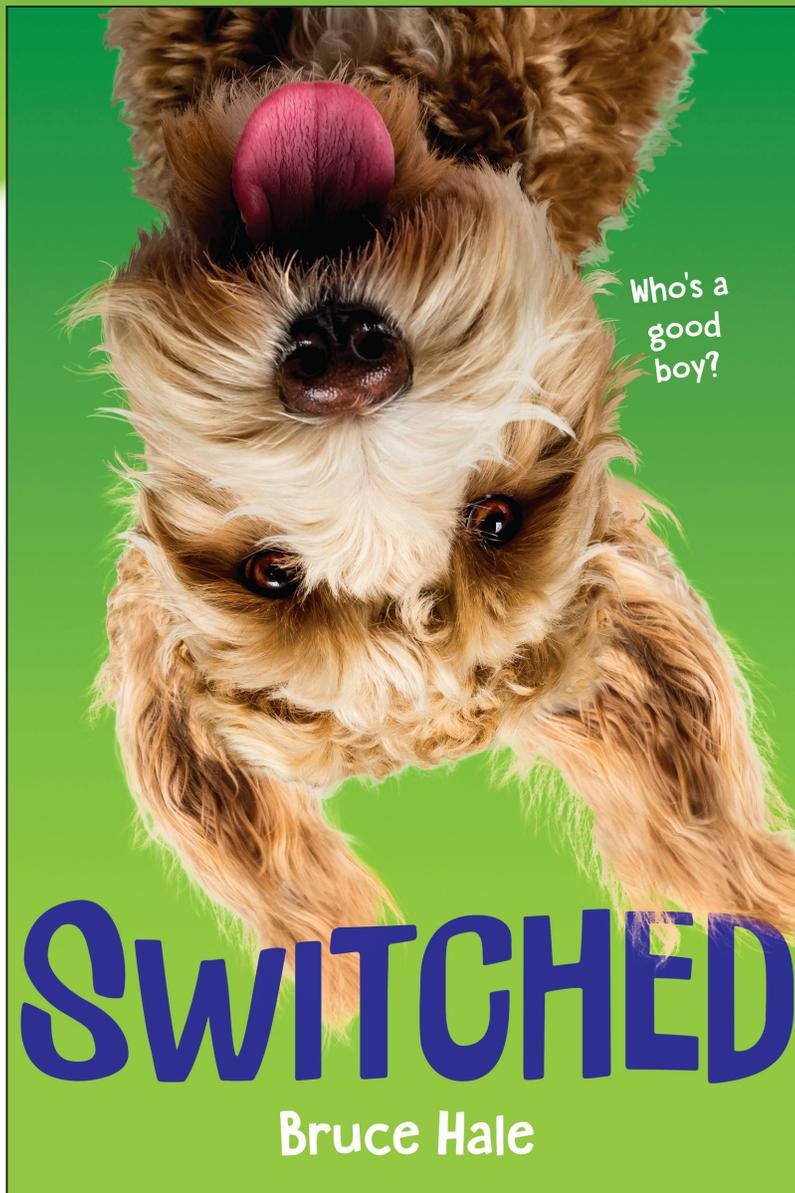


# Discussion Guide and Activities

HC: 978-1-338-64591-0 • Ebook: 978-1-338-70255-2



## PARKER'S LIFE IS ABOUT TO GET RUFF.

**T**welve-year-old Parker Pitts hates a mess. Ever since his grandmother died, he's much more comfortable when things are organized. He scrubs the kitchen counters at home, avoids the school bully at all costs, and never even *speaks* to Gabriella Cortez, the most interesting girl in the sixth grade. No fuss, no muss, no complicated feelings to worry about.

But now Parker's older sister is traveling abroad for the semester, leaving behind her obnoxious and *extremely* disorderly goldendoodle, Boof, for Parker to manage. Man's best friend? More like boy's worst nightmare!

When an intense round of tug-of-war leaves both dog and boy with bumped

heads, Parker and Boof wake up to the biggest disaster yet: they've switched bodies! Suddenly Boof has to find his way through a school day and Parker has to . . . eat dog food?!

It's a mess of truly epic proportions. Can Parker and Boof clean it up—together?

“Hale offers credible insights into how Boof's forthright doggy nature might affect relationships at school (once he gets over the urge to sniff butts)...and also ways in which the freedom to act like a dog could work a sea change in Parker's emotional landscape. . . .

A dog lover's delight with a chewy center.” —KIRKUS REVIEWS

[brucehale.com](http://brucehale.com) [scholastic.com](http://scholastic.com)

The Common Core State Standards addressed by the discussion questions and activities in this guide are noted throughout. For more information on the Common Core, visit [corestandards.org](http://corestandards.org).

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# Discussion Questions

Unless otherwise noted, all discussion questions align with the following Common Core State Standards: [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.1](#)

- ➔ Read through the chapter titles listed in the table of contents. What predictions can you make about the story based on the titles? Which chapter titles seem most interesting to you and why?
- ➔ Parker puts a great deal of effort into planning a going-away party for his big sister as she prepares to leave for school in Ireland. What does the reader learn about Parker's personality based on how he plans the party and how he reacts to Boof's actions that evening?
- ➔ During the chaos of the party when Boof destroys the cake and decorations, Parker thinks he sees the statue that his grandmother had given him—a carving of the Yoruba trickster god Eshu—glowing violet for a split second. How does this event foreshadow what is to come for Parker and Boof?
- ➔ Parker was very close to his grandmother Mimi. Think about the scene when Parker's mother awakens him to help deal with a sick Boof after the dog has eaten the food from the party. How does Parker cope with the loss of Mimi when the feelings of grief prove to be too much for him?
- ➔ Discuss the names that Boof has for each member of his family. How do they reflect each personality?
- ➔ Aside from Parker's friend Cody, there are two other students, Deke Wightman and Gabriella Cortez, that Parker interacts with at middle school. Describe how Gabriella and Deke present different challenges for Parker at school.
- ➔ While Parker and his parents are watching tv, they hear a crash in the other room. Parker goes to investigate and finds Boof chewing on the Eshu carving from Mimi. Parker and Boof both tug on the statue. What role do you think the carved statue of Eshu plays in the major change that happens between Parker and Boof?
- ➔ What physical changes did Parker and Boof notice the following morning?
- ➔ Why is school problematic for Boof in Parker's body? Cite examples from the text that illustrate the challenges that Boof faces when going to sixth grade for the first time.
- ➔ How does Boof's honesty come into play when he meets Gabi for the first time? How is his behavior different from how Parker deals with his crush? Why do you think the two approach Gabi so differently?
- ➔ As the reality of the switch settles, Boof lets Parker know that he is "living the dream" in Parker's body. Parker responds, "But I'm not." Compare how Boof and Parker are experiencing life in their new bodies. What are the positive and the negative aspects of life as a dog and life as a boy in middle school? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3](#)

- ➔ Parker has to deal with an angry golden retriever at the dog park after Boof snatches the dog's ball. As a result, Parker is injured in a dog fight. Parker tells Boof, "My parents always say that if you resort to fighting, you've already lost the argument." Boof counters with, "Fighting is part of life. Sometimes you've got to fight for what you want. Or defend yourself if someone attacks." In your opinion, who do you think is right? Cite evidence from the story that supports either Parker's or Boof's statements about fighting.
- ➔ What are the different ways that Parker tries to solve the problem of the switch? What are the results of Parker's attempts to switch himself and Boof back to their own bodies?
- ➔ Parker has a memory of how Mimi helped him deal with a child at karate class who called Parker a name because of his brown skin. What words of understanding did Mimi share with Parker about the name-calling incident?
- ➔ Parker meets the neighbor's dog, Ruby, when Parker is in a miserable state howling in his backyard. Ruby tells Parker that part of his problem is that Parker is "not enjoying being a dog." What kinds of dog fun adventures does Ruby share with Parker?
- ➔ As a boy, Parker has to contend with Deke's bullying at school. As a dog, Parker has to deal with the Bad Man from Animal Control. Why do you think that it is important for the story to have villains for Parker to face? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.5](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.5](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.5](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.5](#)
- ➔ How does Boof's outgoing dog personality affect Parker's relationships with Gabriella and with Deke? How does Parker feel about Boof's behavior with these two people in his life? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3](#)
- ➔ Compare how Parker feels about Boof at the beginning of the story and how he feels about Boof when Boof is heading over to Deke's house. What is Parker risking by following Boof to Deke's? How does this show how Parker's feelings about Boof have changed over the course of the story? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3](#)
- ➔ How does Boof respond when he discovers that Parker is missing and has been taken by the Bad Man? What does Boof consider before sharing where Parker is with Parker's parents? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3](#)
- ➔ What role does Sonya Morales play in reuniting Parker with his family? What feelings did you experience as you read the section about Parker's time in the county pound?
- ➔ Why do you think Parker and Boof finally switch back into their own bodies? What lessons do Parker and Boof learn through their soul switching experience? How does Parker's ability to deal with his grief at losing Mimi change over the course of the novel? [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.2](#)

The discussion questions and activities in this guide were created by Leigh Courtney, Ph.D. She teaches in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both masters' and doctoral degrees in education, with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.

# Activities

## Dog Sense

One of the first things that Parker notices the morning after his soul switch with Boof is that he sees, smells, and tastes things differently as a dog. Research what makes a dog's five senses so unique. Gather the facts that you discover and write a short informative report about a dog's senses.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.2](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.2](#)

## P.O.V.

*Switched* is written from two points of view: Parker's and Boof's. This story structure allows the reader into the thoughts and feelings of each character. Imagine if the reader could see into the thoughts and feelings of another character in the story. How would Parker's dad describe the scene of Parker and Boof fighting over the carved statue? How might Cody describe Parker's behavior at school after the soul switch with Boof? Use one of these scenarios or another of your choice to rewrite a scene from the story from another character's point of view. Share your point of view piece with a writing partner.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.6](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.6](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.6](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.6](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.6](#)

## Story Timeline

Create a timeline with the most important events from the story. Use a long strip of paper such as adding machine tape to list the events in the order that they occur in the story. Add a small illustration and a detailed caption for each event.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.1](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.1](#)

## Character Interview

Make a list of interview questions that you would like to ask either Parker or Boof. Then, write the answers to the questions as if you were the character you selected, or interview a partner pretending to be the character.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3](#)

## Readers' Theater

What section of the story did you find most exciting or interesting? Take this scene and rewrite it as a readers' theater script. Make sure to include a cast of characters and the setting. Assign parts to classmates and practice reading the script several times so that all of the actors can read their parts fluently and with expression. Share a performance of your readers' theater script with your class.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.3](#)

## Jazz Greats

Parker is named for Charlie "Bird" Parker, a saxophonist and composer, and Billie is named for singer Billie Holiday. Research these jazz greats and showcase them in a creative way to share with a neighboring classroom—write a creatively designed information card highlighting their lives and careers, draw portraits, choreograph a dance to selections of their music, or think of some other way to bring these artists to a new audience.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

# Coming Soon to a Theater Near You!

Choose a scene from the story that you can picture easily in your mind. Describe it in detail, and then design a poster for *Switched: The Movie* that includes your preferred scene.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.1;  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.1

**Description:** \_\_\_\_\_

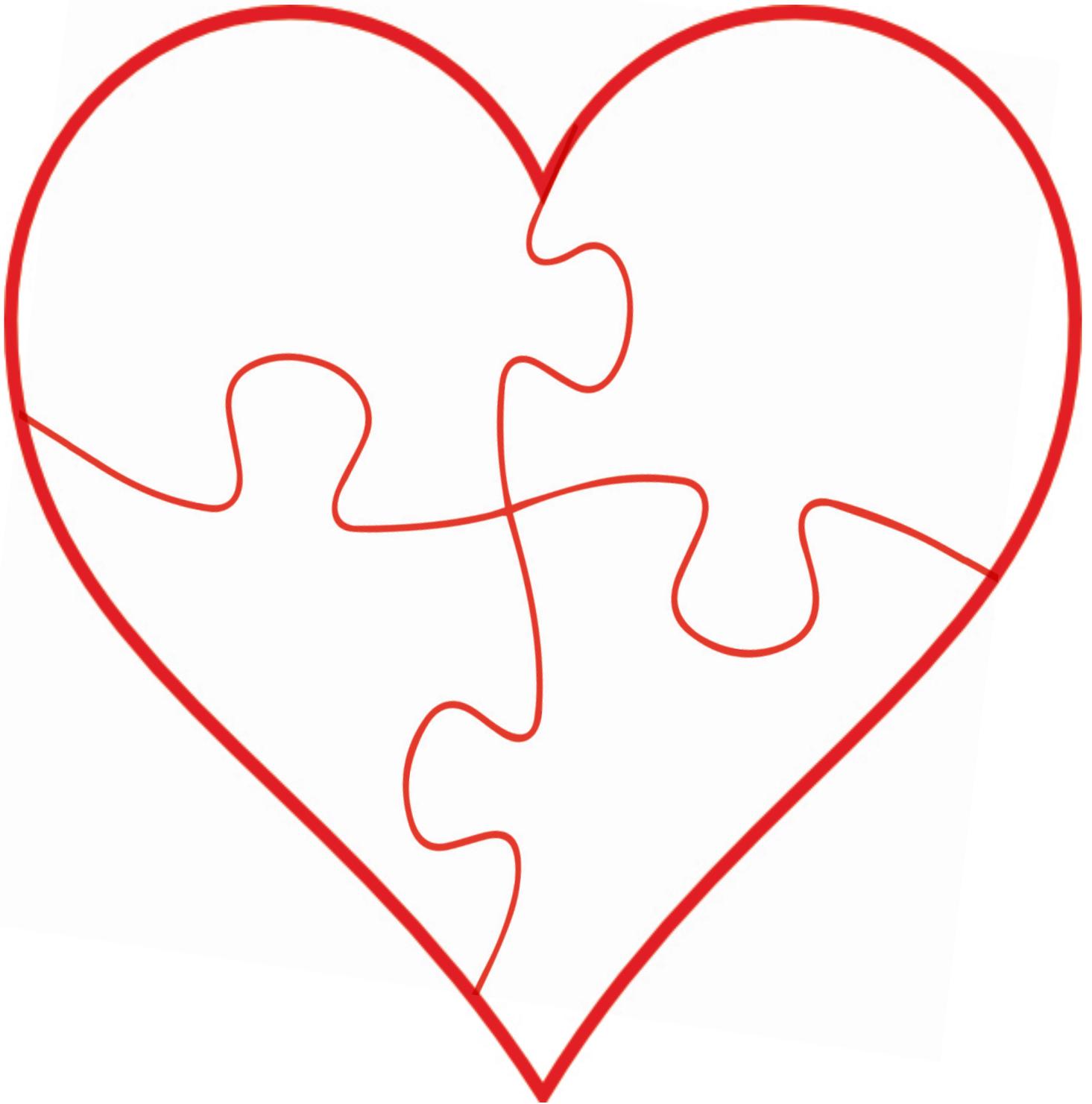
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# Near and Dear to His Heart

Parker's behavior in *Switched* is strongly influenced by his heart-felt emotions. Think about what makes up the pieces of Parker's heart. In each puzzle piece, draw and label the people and things that Parker holds most dear. [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3](#); [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.3](#)

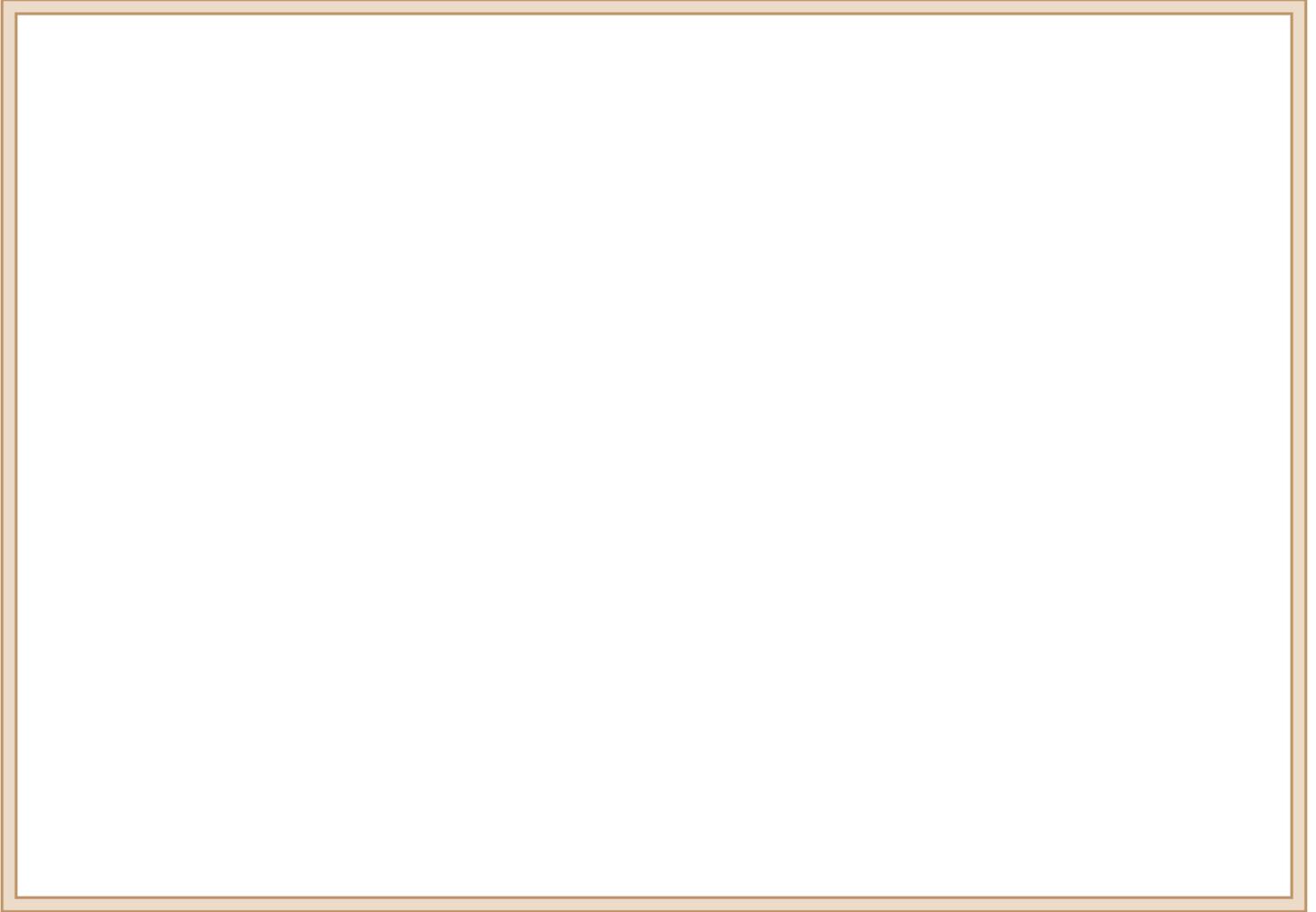


NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

# Switched (for a Day)

Imagine you could swap bodies with any animal just for one day. Which animal would you choose?

**Draw the new you!**



**Why did you choose this animal? What would you like to experience through this creature?**

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# Character Word Search

Find the character names hidden in the letters below. Words can go in any direction and share letters as they cross over each other.

N	Z	N	A	I	R	E	I	L	L	I	B	Z	Y	Q
T	A	M	X	E	M	Y	O	B	Y	M	O	O	L	G
X	E	M	K	H	S	I	Z	P	H	X	K	V	B	Y
U	M	R	L	K	H	W	M	W	O	E	G	Y	D	I
K	A	O	J	L	X	J	E	D	E	U	G	A	R	A
P	Z	X	L	A	A	F	Y	E	A	C	L	A	W	V
S	M	A	S	O	N	B	B	Y	T	R	D	C	B	Z
K	C	X	P	F	C	B	B	Z	E	G	T	N	G	I
I	E	H	C	F	Z	U	W	W	B	Z	I	X	J	I
Z	Q	D	Y	I	R	H	O	H	A	Z	W	R	N	T
E	E	O	R	S	L	L	B	D	D	G	F	F	L	J
Y	S	M	K	W	F	H	M	E	M	S	F	W	F	D
K	P	X	B	W	R	S	E	K	A	M	K	L	X	B
K	B	Q	S	B	O	O	F	E	N	J	Q	K	Z	L
D	A	G	Q	L	P	Z	K	R	C	O	D	Y	C	X

**BAD MAN****BOOF****FLOWER LADY****MIMI****SWEET GIRL****BALL MAN****CODY****GABI****PARKER****BILLIE****DEKE****GLOOMY BOY****RUBY**

# Name that Breed

Boof is a goldendoodle, which is a cross between a golden retriever and a poodle. There are many other fun “combo” breeds of dogs. See if you can break these mixed breeds down to their origins.

EXAMPLE:

**Puggle** = Pug + Beagle

**Boxador** = \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

**Dorgi** = \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

**Aussiedoodle** = \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

**Yorkipoo** = \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

**Pomsky** = \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

**Morkie** = \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

**Cockapoo** = \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

**Schnoodle** = \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

**Frenchtou** = \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

**Labradoodle** = \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGIN BREEDS:

Australian Shepherd

Corgi

Labrador Retriever

Schnauzer

Boston Terrier

Dachshund

Maltese

Yorkshire Terrier

Boxer

French Bulldog

Pomeranian

Cocker Spaniel

Husky

Poodle