The Best Pet of All
Based on the book by David LaRochelle
Illustrated by Hanako Wakiyama
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Adapted for Reader’s Theatre by Julie Reimer
For non-profit, classroom use

Cast
Narrator 1  Boy
Narrator 2  Mother
Narrator 3

Narrator 1:  On Monday I asked my mother if I could have a dog.

Boy:  A dog is a good pet.

Mother:  No. Dogs are too messy.

Narrator 2:  On Tuesday I asked my mother if I could have a dog.

Boy:  A dog is a very good pet.

Mother:  No. Dogs are too loud.

Narrator 3:  On Wednesday I asked my mother if I could have a dog.

Boy:  A dog is the best pet of all.

Mother:  No. NO DOGS!

Narrator 1:  On Thursday I asked my mother if I could have a dragon.

Mother:  A dragon? I have never heard of a dragon for a pet.

Narrator 1:  She thought a bit.

Mother:  If you can find a dragon, you can keep it for a pet.

Narrator 2:  Dragons are not easy to find.

All Narrators:  There were no dragons in the park. There were no dragons at the beach. There were no dragons in the woods. There were no dragons at the zoo.

Boy:  At last I found a dragon.
Narrator 3: This dragon was at the drugstore. He was wearing dark glasses and a hat.

Boy: I asked the dragon to come home with me.

All Narrators: The dragon said no.

Boy: You can sleep in my bed.

All Narrators: He still would not come.

Boy: You can play with my toys.

All Narrators: The dragon said yes.

Narrator 1: Dragons like to play with toys.

Narrator 2: But they do not like to put them away.

Narrator 3: They do not like to help with chores.

Mother: And they make a mess in the kitchen.

Narrator 1: They roast hot dogs in the living room.

Narrator 2: And they dance to loud music all night long.

Boy: My mother did not like this dragon.

Narrator 3: She asked the dragon to please leave.

Mother: The dragon would not go.

Boy: Then she told the dragon to leave now.

Mother: The dragon still would not go.

Boy: Finally my mother got angry.

Narrator 1: She stomped her foot. She told the dragon to leave this minute…

All: OR ELSE.

Mother: The dragon just shook his head. He went back to eating spaghetti in the bathtub.

Boy: Too bad we do not have a dog. Dragons do not like dogs.
Narrator 2: The dragon looked worried.

Boy: Dragons are afraid of dogs.

Narrator 3: The dragon began to shake.

Boy: A dog would chase the dragon away. The dragon ran to my toy box and jumped inside.

Mother: Maybe you are right. Maybe we need a dog.

Boy: I put a sign in the window: DOG WANTED.

All Narrators: Soon there was a knock at the door. It was a dog.

Mother: The dragon saw the dog.

All Narrators: He grabbed his hat and ran out the door.

Mother: Thank goodness we have a dog. A dog is a good pet.

Boy: My dog wagged its tail. Yes. A dog is the best pet of all.