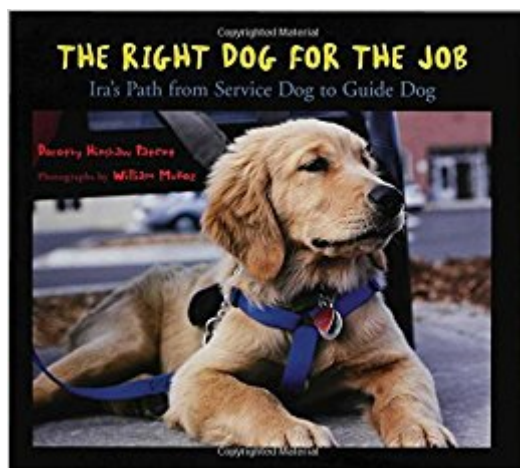


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# The Right Dog For The Job: Ira's Path From Service Dog To Guide Dog



## Synopsis

Ira was not born to be an ordinary dog. A few weeks after his birth, a foster puppy trainer with PawsAbilities, Canine Partners for People with Disabilities, took him home to begin his training as a Service Dog. Service dogs help people who have a lot of difficulty moving around on their own. To become one, Ira must learn how to retrieve dropped keys; press a wheelchair sign to open doors; ride a bus; sit quietly in loud, distracting places; and do many other difficult tasks. Not many dogs can do all that! Fortunately, Ira is smart and confident, and he is able to pass his Service Dog test. Unfortunately, the new facility that Ira needs to attend for more detailed training isn't ready. What will happen to Ira? Will he be able to learn a new career as a Guide Dog for the Blind?-This true story shows the immense impact service and guide dogs have on the lives of the disabled, and what it takes for them to have that impact.- Adorable, full-color photographs bring children into Ira's life and let them connect with him in a very personal way.- See how sixth graders helped train Ira, and hear how they felt about the experience.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 960L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 10.1 x 0.3 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,032,193 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #71 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Physical Disabilities #564 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Disabled #3499 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > Social Services & Welfare

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 1-5 "This delightful photo-essay follows a puppy from his training to become a service dog

to becoming a guide dog. In conversational tones, Patent describes Ira's training with his raiser, who happens to be a teacher, and the sixth-grade class lucky enough to participate in the process. The golden retriever then moves on to more preparation with Guide Dogs for the Blind in California, and is eventually paired with a blind man. The author keeps the focus tightly on this animal and the people around him, but manages to slip in an extraordinary amount of information about the raising and training of guide dogs. She brings life to the narrative through detailsâ "Ira learning to ride the bus, for example, and practicing the proper way to enter an elevator so that it won't close on his leash. The book comes to a satisfying conclusion when Ira and his new owner arrive at the eighth-grade graduation of the students who helped raise him. Myriad full-color photographs that will capture kids' interest accompany the text. Though the difference between service dog and guide dog is never quite made clear, this portrait of Ira is sure to hook animal lovers. Caroline Arnold's more in-depth *A Guide Dog Puppy Grows Up* (Harcourt, 1991) is another high-quality book on the topic. However, with appeal for a wide age range, Patent's is the right book for the job.â "Kathleen Kelly MacMillan, Maryland School for the Deaf, Columbia Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Gr. 3-5. The dependable team of Patent and Munoz offers an inside look at the training of a service dog. Puppy Ira goes to live with a "puppy raiser," sixth-grade teacher Sandy Welch," when he is eight weeks old. She trains him to perform tasks such as picking up dropped keys and opening doors by pressing wheelchair-access signs, and she helps him become accustomed to crowds, buses, and new situations. After additional instruction at a specialized training center, Ira becomes a guide dog for a blind piano tuner. The informative text tells the dog's story in a straightforward way, while using Ira's impact on the children in Welch's class as an effective, emotional touch point. Most of the space in the layout is devoted to the clear, color photographs, which record the dog's physical growth, developing skills, and relationships with people during his first years. The last page lists organizations providing service and guide dogs as well as a number of titles recommended for further reading. Carolyn Phelan Copyright Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved

I have this book available to the participants at R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dog) program at our local public library. I learned a lot about the training process for seeing eye dogs. Most informative and at a level that children can comprehend.

We have been reading about Morris Frank and Buddy, the first seeing eye dog. This book went

along with it very well. It shows the life of a service dog from birth to placement. It was helpful in showing the students the training that is required to be a service dog.

The book is in good condition, but a stapled binding seems subpar for paperback picture book priced over ten dollars. Disappointed.

Great book!

Will be taking a service dog to the classroom - good book to read beforehand

Good story. Lots of reading here, maybe not the best for a very young reader. Beautiful photos too.

Excellent book, the kids loved it!

We checked this book out of our town library and I liked it so much that I purchased a copy for my classroom library. I teach 6th grade, but it will be a wonderful read aloud picture book.

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