

FSA Exemplars

Grade 4 Reading Comprehension

This article is about Keno, a working dog, trained to rescue people who get caught in avalanches.

Avalanche Saviour



Keno, a Labrador retriever, is a Search and Rescue dog. His owner Robin Siggers trained him as a puppy.

Robin taught Keno to find things using games. He hid things under snow and Keno would sniff to find the object. If Keno didn't find the object, he was never punished. Robin didn't want Keno to be afraid. He wanted him to be excited about finding things.

Robin and Keno work for a ski resort in British Columbia. When an avalanche happens, it is Keno's job to find people who are buried in the snow.

On December 20, 2000, the resort was getting ready to open. Ryan Radchenko, a ski lift operator, checked the lift equipment one last time.

5 Suddenly...A-V-A-L-A-N-C-H-E!
Snow came rushing down the mountain. Ryan was swept away,

buried in two metres of snow and he couldn't get air to breathe! Luckily for Ryan, some ski patrollers radioed for help.

When Robin and Keno arrived by snowmobile 20 minutes later, Robin gave the command, "Search!" Keno raced forward and sniffed all around.

In just minutes, Keno began digging. He pulled out a glove from Ryan's hand. Then the people took over and carefully dug Ryan out.

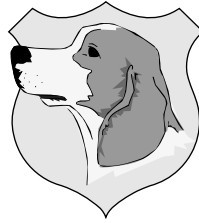
Ryan had been buried for 26 minutes. He was given oxygen and rushed to a hospital.

Fast thinking and Keno's super nose brought a happy ending to a near disaster. Ryan's life was saved!

10 Keno was given the Service Dog of the Year Award. He is the first Canadian-trained avalanche rescue dog to find a victim alive.

"Avalanche Saviour." *Dog Tales*. Rubicon Publishing Inc., in association with Harcourt Canada. 2004. pp. 22–23.

**Sniffing around airports is an important job for some dogs.
Read on to learn more.**



Detective Dog

Did you know that you are not allowed to bring some foods from one country into another? This is because food can carry worms, insects, or even diseases. These things can make our food unsafe.

Do you know whose job it is to stop food from going from one country to another? B-E-A-G-L-E-S! These dogs love food so they are perfect for the job.

Beagles work at airports in Canada, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand. It is their job to sniff for food.

These special dogs have a super nose. They can even smell food hidden in bags or boxes. When a dog finds a bag with food hidden inside, it sits in front of the bag. This tells the dog's human partner that there is something in the bag.

- 5 The dog is rewarded with a treat every time a banned food is found.

These working dogs don't live in a house. They live in kennels¹ because

the food in homes distracts them. They may become confused about which foods they are trained to detect. Living in a kennel helps to protect their sensitive noses.

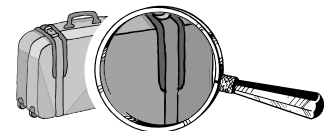
Before training starts, the dogs are tested. The trainers must find out whether:

- The dog is scared by large groups of people or other dogs.
- Loud noises upset the dog.
- The dog bites.
- The dog gets sick when travelling in a car.

If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," then the dog might not be chosen for the job.

Next time you're at an airport, look for a detective dog. You will recognize them by their brightly coloured vests. There is a logo and a flag on the vest. Don't pet them.

They are busy. They're working to keep us safe.



¹kennels: dog houses

"Detective Dog." *SOS! Rescue Heroes*. Rubicon Publishing Inc., in association with Harcourt Canada. 2004. pp. 24–25.

2009 Foundation Skills Assessment
Grade 4
Reading Comprehension Sample Responses

Avalanche Saviour and Detective Dog

1. Which dog provides a more valuable service?

- ⊖ Keno (in “Avalanche Saviour”) ⊖ the beagle (in “Detective Dog”)

Use information or examples from the passages to help explain your answer. **(4 marks)**

SAMPLE RESPONSES

The following sample responses are listed to support the use of the Grade 4 Reading Scoring Rubric. The suggestions are not complete, and they should not be used as a checklist.

Specific text information/support may include, but is not restricted to the following:

Keno provides a more valuable service because:

- he saves lives (saved Ryan’s life).
- he finds people buried in the snow.
- he has a super nose.
- he’s well-trained.
- he has a strong bond with his owner.
- he won the Service Dog of the Year award.
- he’s excited about finding things.
- he performs a job that people can’t do.

The beagle provides a more valuable service because:

- he works to keep us all safe.
- his service reaches many people.
- he makes our food supply safe.
- he helps prevent the spread of disease.
- he has a good nose.
- he’s well-trained/easily trained.
- he’s kept in a kennel to protect his sense of smell.
- he is a “natural” for the job.
- he performs a job that people can’t do.

Note: Other answers may be possible.

Grade 4 Reading – Exemplar # 1

1. Which dog provides a more valuable service?

 Keno
(in "Avalanche Saviour")

 the beagle
(in "Detective Dog")

Why do you think this?

Use information from the passages to help explain your answer.

(4 marks)

It is serious because people can die from this easier they'll be buried with no air and getting smashed with falling things. air also getting

Grade 4 Reading – Exemplar # 2

1. Which dog provides a more valuable service?

⊖ Keno
(in "Avalanche Saviour")


⊖ the beagle
(in "Detective Dog")


Why do you think this?

Use information from the passages to help explain your answer.

(4 marks)

I think that the Detective Dog is the most hard working and is more valuable than the Avalanche Saviour. The Beagle is more helpful and is more safer. And that's what I think for the dog safety.

By 



Grade 4 Reading – Exemplar # 3

1. Which dog provides a more valuable service?



Keno
(in "Avalanche Saviour")

the beagle
(in "Detective Dog")

Why do you think this?

Use information from the passages to help explain your answer. **(4 marks)**

Keno is a very important dog
if he was not there Ryan would
might have died

Grade 4 Reading – Exemplar # 4

1. Which dog provides a more valuable service?

Keno
(in "Avalanche Saviour")

the beagle
(in "Detective Dog")

Why do you think this?

Use information from the passages to help explain your answer. **(4 marks)**

I think Keno is better because if someone is under the snow they wouldn't use a beagle because the beagle sniffs for food at an airport. If someone used a beagle they would have to carry food all the time. Keno has a better sense of smell for a human a beagle has a better sense of smell for food.

Grade 4 Reading – Exemplar # 5

1. Which dog provides a more valuable service?

Keno
(in “Avalanche Saviour”)

the beagle
(in “Detective Dog”)

Why do you think this?

Use information from the passages to help explain your answer. (4 marks)

I think Avalanche Saviour is better than Detective Dog because Avalanche Saviour can save people and they were trained very well. Avalanche Saviour was trained when they were a puppy and they found lots of alive people. They are good to dig snow too because Avalanche Saviour has a dog. Avalanche Saviour is fast too.

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Grade 4 Reading – Exemplar # 6

1. Which dog provides a more valuable service?

Keno

(in “Avalanche Saviour”)

the beagle

(in “Detective Dog”)

Why do you think this?

Use information from the passages to help explain your answer. (4 marks)

I think that Keno was the best because when there is an avalanche and you get buried you can't really get out but sometimes if you're lucky you get out but most of the time you can't. It was a good thing that they have dogs that can do it. Keno can also sniff out objects very easily. Avalanches are very scary but it is a good thing that we have Keno because he saved Ryan's life.

Grade 4 Reading – Exemplar # 7

1. Which dog provides a more valuable service?



Keno
(in “Avalanche Saviour”)

the beagle
(in “Detective Dog”)

Why do you think this?

Use information from the passages to help explain your answer. (4 marks)

I think Keno is better because he saves lives. I know those bugs can make you sick but you can die a lot faster by a avalanche. Avalanches make it that you have little oxygen and bad food just makes you sick. Keno saves peoples' life. Keno can sleep at home too.

Grade 4 Reading – Exemplar # 8

1. Which dog provides a more valuable service?

Keno
(in “Avalanche Saviour”)

the beagle
(in “Detective Dog”)

Why do you think this?

Use information from the passages to help explain your answer. (4 marks)

I think that Keno is better because he can rescue peoples lives and is great at digging people out of snow. They can also dig through 2 meters of thick snow. They can probably stand colder temperatures too. Keno can also dig somebody out in minutes.

Grade 4 Reading – Exemplar # 9

1. Which dog provides a more valuable service?



Keno
(in "Avalanche Saviour")

the beagle
(in "Detective Dog")

Why do you think this?

Use information from the passages to help explain your answer. **(4 marks)**

well Keno can save peoples lives but all the beagle can do is stop pepol from brining food in to other contrys but avalanches are wores then food going into oter conteres and keno can pull savety sleds but the beagle can't pull savety sleds all the beagle can do is snif out food and sit in frunt of the logog to let thare oners know that thare is food in the logog that's way I like keno beter then the beagle.

Score



Grade 4 Reading – Exemplar # 10

1. Which dog provides a more valuable service?

Keno
(in “Avalanche Saviour”)

the beagle
(in “Detective Dog”)

Why do you think this?

Use information from the passages to help explain your answer. (4 marks)

I think Keno provides a more valuable service because he rescues people after they get stuck in snow and he has a really good smell. Keno rescued someone after six minutes of searching so he could get oxygen fast. His owner didn't hurt him, so he got excited to find people and toys. Keno is a fast digger also. His fast digging makes it easy to see a part of a person. That's why I think Keno has more value.

Grade 4 Reading – Exemplar # 11

1. Which dog provides a more valuable service?

Keno
(in “Avalanche Saviour”)

the beagle
(in “Detective Dog”)

Why do you think this?

Use information from the passages to help explain your answer. (4 marks)

Because the food isn't important than a person. If the person got stuck under the snow, Keno will rescue, but if you eat unsafe food you got the stomachache you can get an operation. But if the person got stuck under the snow, no one know where that person is and that person will freeze to death. And if it is too late person will die. So I think that Keno is more important than the beagle. And we can't trade food with people.

Grade 4 Reading – Exemplar # 12

1. Which dog provides a more valuable service?

Keno
(in "Avalanche Saviour")

the beagle
(in "Detective Dog")

Why do you think this?

Use information from the passages to help explain your answer. (4 marks)

I think Keno is more important because Keno's job is a matter of life & death. Keno has to have a good snout to be a search & rescue dog. He also has to be a good digger, and a fast one too! Keno also has to do his job fast! He also has to find the area where the person is under the snow. Keno has to be very careful when he is digging so he doesn't cut the person underneath the snow. Keno's job is more important.