Who Is Wilfred?

Story by Meg Livingston
Illustrations by Jennifer Clark
Green Words (Phonetic):

children  share  white  chatted

draw  stories  when  write

good  wagged  wish  writing

project  waved  pasted  wrote

Red Words (Sight):

head  find  whose  son

new  picture  putting  newspaper

Practice reading these sentences.

Mr. West said, “We will write a class newspaper.”

He made a web of facts.

The children met in teams to plan their writing.
One bright spring day, Mr. West told the children that they were going to make their own class newspaper. The children began to talk excitedly about what they would do.

Mr. West said, “We will make a class newspaper. We will write stories and draw.”

“What will we write?” asked Fran.

“You can meet in your teams to plan what to write,” said Mr. West.

“This will be fun!” said Vick.
Fran’s team wanted to write about the big storm.

“We can write about the wind and the ice,” said Fran. Deena’s team wanted to write about how to make cupcakes.

Jack grinned and said, “I will write about putting in too much milk!”
Vick said, “I will write about the deer that visited me when I was sick.”

“O.K.,” said Jim. “I will draw a picture to go with your story.”

“This will be a good newspaper,” said Mr. West. “But you need to do a lot of writing.”
Mr. West told the children how to write newspaper stories.

“A newspaper story has facts,” said Mr. West. “What facts must be in a newspaper story?” “WHO is in the story?” asked Jim. “WHERE did the story take place?” asked Fran. Deena said, “And you must tell WHEN it takes place.”
“Go back to your teams to add three facts,” said Mr. West. When the teams had chatted, Mr. West made a big web. The children read the web with Mr. West. He said, “When you write a newspaper story, you must put all the facts on the web.”
The children wrote stories and made pictures. They cut and pasted the stories and pictures onto sheets of paper. Mr. West pinned up the sheets. All of a sudden, he looked up. He yelled, “WHAT is that?”
A big, white dog was in the class! He wagged his tail. "WHO are you?" asked Mr. West. "WHERE did you come from? HOW did you get in my class? WHEN did you get here, and WHAT do you want?" The dog wagged his tail. "WOOF! WOOF!" said the dog.
The children smiled.

“Mr. West!” said Jack. “Did you hear what you said? You asked the dog all the facts for a newspaper story!”

“Oh! I did,” said Mr. West. “But a dog cannot speak, so he cannot tell us the facts!”
Mrs. White poked her head in the class and asked, “Have you seen a big, white . . .”
“WOOF!” said the dog.
“Here you are, Wilfred,” said Mrs. White.
“Come with me!”
Wilfred wagged his tail. He went to the door.
“Please STOP!” said Deena. “We need to find out the facts. We can write about Wilfred for the class newspaper.”

Mrs. White agreed. “Ask me what you wish,” she said.

Fran asked, “WHY did you bring Wilfred to school?” “WHOSE dog is Wilfred?” asked Jim.

“What will he do here?” asked Jack.

“WHERE did he come from?” asked Deena.

Mr. West added, “HOW did he get here?” “And WHEN?” said Vick.
“Well,” said Mrs. White, “Wilfred is my son’s dog. My son’s class had a Share a Pet Project. It is time for us to go.”

“WOOF!” said Wilfred.

The children waved as Wilfred and Mrs. White left. Mr. West said, “Let’s get back to the job. We have a new story for our newspaper! We will write the WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, and HOW of WILFRED!”
1. Why were the children in teams?

2. What facts did the children need for a newspaper story?

3. Why did Mr. West make a web?

4. How did Mr. West feel when he saw Wilfred?

5. Why did the children ask Mrs. White about Wilfred?
Reading Roots, Level 3

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Reading Roots Shared Stories were developed under the direction of Robert E. Slavin and Nancy A. Madden, codirectors of the Success for All Foundation Family of Programs.

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Illustrations for this book were colored digitally by Lyliam Walker.

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