

Name:

## Day One

# A Special Kind of Soldier

### Part 1: Silent read

➔ What role did dogs play in the Iraq War? Read silently.

A long day of training was over, and Sergeant Benjamin Maple praised Corporal Jerry for his hard work. Marine Corporal Jerry proudly wagged his tail in response.

As you might have guessed, Corporal Jerry is a dog. He was one of about 1,000 canines who served on the front lines in the Iraq War. The most common breed of military dog is the German shepherd. Military dogs perform important work in wartime. For example, they detect explosives and help with search and rescue. Dogs in Iraq had to deal with harsh conditions. They worked during 130 degree heat and high wind. Military dogs risked injury and death every day.

In addition to sniffing out explosives and other duties, dogs provided emotional support for the soldiers. Military dogs and their handlers develop a close relationship. Marine Sergeant Maple has an especially strong bond with his dog, Star. “I almost walked on an IED but he was ahead of me, he saved my life. He saved the lives of a couple Marines that were with me,” he said in an interview. He felt so close to his dog that he even named his daughter Star, in honor of the canine.

Would you like to get to know one of these animals? When they retire from the military, many of these loyal dogs are adopted by American families. They can enjoy the good life as a reward for their years of service.

Source: “Dogs of war play key role in Iraq,” *NPR*, March 3, 2008.



# Day One

// one minute

## A Special Kind of Soldier

### Part 2: First timed read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

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 who served on the front lines in the Iraq War. The most common breed of military dog is 62  
 the German shepherd. Military dogs perform important work in wartime. For example, 74  
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 his daughter Star, in honor of the canine. 198

Would you like to get to know one of these animals? When they retire from the military, 215  
 many of these loyal dogs are adopted by American families. They can enjoy the good life 231  
 as a reward for their years of service. 239

### Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

How did dogs help U.S. soldiers during the Iraq War?

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How did Sergeant Maple honor his dog, Star?

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## Day One

# A Special Kind of Soldier

### Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

A long day of training was over, / and Sergeant Benjamin Maple praised Corporal Jerry for his hard work. // Marine Corporal Jerry proudly wagged his tail in response. //

As you might have guessed, / Corporal Jerry is a dog. // He was one of about 1,000 canines / who served on the front lines in the Iraq War. // The most common breed of military dog / is the German shepherd. // Military dogs perform important work in wartime. // For example, / they detect explosives / and help with search and rescue. // Dogs in Iraq had to deal with harsh conditions. // They worked during 130 degree heat and high wind. // Military dogs risked injury and death every day. //

In addition to sniffing out explosives and other duties, / dogs provided emotional support for the soldiers. // Military dogs and their handlers develop a close relationship. // Marine Sergeant Maple has an especially strong bond with his dog, / Star. // “I almost walked on an IED / but he was ahead of me, / he saved my life. // He saved the lives of a couple Marines that were with me,” / he said in an interview. // He felt so close to his dog that he even named his daughter Star, / in honor of the canine. //

Would you like to get to know one of these animals? // When they retire from the military, / many of these loyal dogs are adopted by American families. // They can enjoy the good life / as a reward for their years of service. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.