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Lad: A Dog

Albert Payson Terhune · *1919* · *English original*

Lad's linked adventures repeatedly test the bonds between a collie, his companions, and his home.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should people answer the loyalty of an animal they love?

"Lady was as much a part of Lad's everyday happiness as the sunshine / itself."
Chapter I: His Mate

The household's best responses combine affection with attention, investigation, rescue, and care when Lad becomes dependent.

KEY CHARACTERS

Lad
Dignified dog whose attachments organize the linked adventures.

The Mistress
Understands Lad's distress and provides patient care.

The Master
Protects Lad, investigates accusations, and insists on treatment.

Lady
Cherished companion whose affections and moods matter deeply to him.

Wolf
Younger collie whose deeds and rivalry complicate the household.

Knave
Younger dog whose arrival tests Lad's bond with Lady.

Grades 6–8
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Lady and the household

CHAPTER I: HIS MATE

Lad's attachment to Lady and his position at The Place establish the loyalties that later adventures will test.

- Lady is as much a part of Lad's everyday happiness as the sunshine itself.
- The opening is the household at Sunnybank, not a show ring.
- Terhune dedicated the book to Lad, thoroughbred in body and soul.

> *"Lady was as much a part of Lad's everyday happiness as the sunshine / itself."*
> Chapter I: His Mate

02

A prize cannot replace home

CHAPTER V: FOR A BIT OF RIBBON

The dog show rewards Lad's appearance while making him deeply unhappy; the Mistress decides that bringing him home matters more.

- A prize or ribbon cannot take the place of home and the people Lad serves.
- The Mistress and the Master are the human pair of the Place.
- Keep Terhune's wording; this is the 1919 book, not a later film.

> *"Lad's coming_home_."*
> Chapter V: For a Bit of Ribbon

03

The long return

CHAPTER VI: LOST!

Separated from his people in New York, Lad makes his own difficult journey back to the household that is searching for him.

- Lad's long return, when he is lost, tests heart and knowledge of the road home.
- The New Jersey woods and roads are particular, not a generic forest.
- The dog's loyalty is shown in action, not explained in a lecture.

> *"He was going home!"*
> Chapter VI: Lost!

04

A reputation tested

CHAPTER X: THE KILLER

The Master investigates the sheep-killing accusation and exposes the human scheme that places Lad in danger.

- Reputation is tested when Lad is blamed or doubted.
- The collie's work is protection and judgment, not mere display.
- Watch how Terhune gives Lad a moral sense without making him a man in a fur coat.

> *"It was a pretty little scheme all around."*
> Chapter X: The Killer

05

Age, battle, and care

CHAPTER XII: IN THE DAY OF BATTLE, ENDING

A wounded old Lad survives an attack through human rescue and veterinary care, then resumes his place among the dogs.

- Age, battle, and care close the book.
- The afterword returns to the inscription and to those who knew the real Lad.
- The last page is Terhune at Sunnybank, Pompton Lakes, New Jersey.

> *"For Lad knew he was still king!"*
> Chapter XII: In the Day of Battle, ending

Devotion to home

Understanding animals

Care in age and injury

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 6–8

1. The chapters are linked adventures rather than one continuous chase.
2. The narrator interprets canine thought in strongly human terms.
3. The afterword distinguishes the real dog from the sequence of narrated exploits.

Quotations are verbatim from the English original, Project Gutenberg #38777: Albert Payson Terhune, Lad: A Dog, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/lad-a-dog/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.