

**“Working as a Dog Handler” Cloze Activity**

confronted	shoes	color coded
kennel	mentor	stress
zoomed	hanging	issue
experience	rub	partner

Use a vocabulary word from the word bank to fill in each blank.

**HARNESS TUGS-----YIKES!!!**



Having worked at an Iditarod dog kennel, I learned that an important part of hooking up and running the dogs was to make certain the dogs were wearing the correct size harnesses. This was because the harness would \_\_\_\_\_ under the dog’s front legs if it were too small, or if too big the dog wouldn’t pull properly. It’s kind of like having \_\_\_\_\_ that are too small and your feet hurt, or too big and you slip out of them! My musher had the tugs \_\_\_\_\_ for the different sizes, which was a great idea, but it seemed there were MANY different sizes. After teaching all year and not having to think about the tug colors and sizes, upon returning to the \_\_\_\_\_ in the summer, I would have to try and remember which dog wore what size and then what color tug it was.

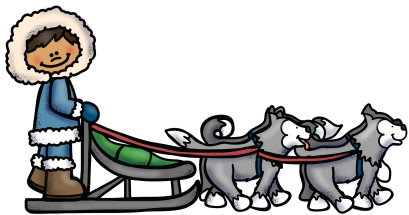
My musher/\_\_\_\_\_ liked to have me problem solve many of the situations I got myself into at the kennel. This was a good idea because then I was to remember what to do the next time I was \_\_\_\_\_ with the problem.

Well, it seemed the harness colored coded tugs and sizes caused me a lot of thought and \_\_\_\_\_ as I attempted to get every dog harnessed correctly.

One day I had harnessed and hooked up my team to take them for a run and was finally sitting on a doghouse waiting for the team to be quiet, when my musher stopped by and sat on a doghouse near me. She looked over my team and turned to me and said, “Finney, you need to check your wheel dogs”. I looked down the line and saw Annie standing with her harness \_\_\_\_\_ on her body, then looked at her \_\_\_\_\_, Butter, who looked like he was holding in his breath. Oh boy, now not only did I have to switch harnesses but I had to figure out how to do this without losing one of the dogs. I also knew that I had to figure out this problem on my own with the musher watching.

After taking some time to think the situation through, I made Annie and Butter quite happy by getting the correct harness with the right color tug on each of them! Who would have thought that those silly tugs would be such an \_\_\_\_\_ for me, but after that experience with my wheel dogs I never put the wrong size harness on a dog again. It was just another learning \_\_\_\_\_ for me that I had to figure out through problem solving.

I finally got on my four-wheeler, started the engine, quietly said “All Righty Now” and the team, all in their PERFECTLY FITTING HARNESSSES, \_\_\_\_\_ out of the dog lot. Annie and Butter, with smiles on their faces, were especially very happy sled dogs!!



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## Vocabulary Learning Organizer

Word	Definition	Memory Device
kennel		
confront		
zoom		
experience		
mentor		
color coded		
issue		