The Green Dog
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Characters: (9)

- Narrator (Teddy’s thoughts)
- Teddy
- Lizzie
- Bart
- Mom
- Dad
- Will Roper
- The Novaks
- Mr. Garret

Teddy: Look at that!

Narrator: There was something at the far end of the lake. It was green. It was swimming.

Lizzie: (shrieks) It’s a monster!

Bart: Let’s follow it!

Narrator: But the green thing was gone.

Lizzie: What was that?
Bart:  
(In a scary voice) The Monster of Emerald Lake.

Teddy:  
Actually, I think it was a dog.

Bart:  
Oh, Teddy, you’ve got dogs on the brain.

Teddy:  
That reminds me, I’d better practice.  
(In a begging voice) Mom, Dad, may I please have a dog?

Bart:  
They can’t say no to that.

Narrator:  
But they did.

Mom:  
A dog needs training.

Dad:  
And care.

Teddy:  
Lots of people have dogs. It can’t be that hard.

Narrator:  
They promised to think it over. Later on I went back to the lake. I was hoping I’d see that green dog again. Instead I saw Will Roper. Will was new in town. His job was to make sure the lake was safe for swimming and fishing.

Will:  
Hey, Teddy, why so gloomy?

Teddy:  
I asked my parents for a dog. But they think it’s too much responsibility.

Will:  
Show them you can handle it.

Narrator:  
That night I thought about Will’s advice. Then I had a great idea. I’d look for pet-sitting jobs. That would show I was responsible! Right away, I got two jobs!

The Novaks:  
Feed our goldfish while we go camping.
Mr. Garret: Feed my ducklings while I’m on vacation.

Narrator: I started pet sitting the next day. I even bought a notebook so I could write down what I did. Very responsible! I went to the Novaks’ house. Their googly-eyed goldfish gobbled up the Fancy Fish Flakes right away.

Teddy: It’s gloomy in this corner. You need some sun.

Narrator: I moved the goldfish bowl to a windowsill. Next I fed Mr. Garret’s ducklings.

Teddy: You need sun, too!

Narrator: I moved the umbrella away from their pool. Then I wrote in the notebook, which read: “My first day: Fed fish. Put bowl in sun. Fed ducks. They quacked. Moved umbrella.” Every day I fed the goldfish. Every day I fed the ducklings. Every day Bart and I saw the green dog at the far end of the lake.

Bart: That dog keeps getting greener. It’s weird.

Teddy: I’ll tell you something just as weird, the water in the goldfish bowl and the duck pool is green, too!

Bart: You’re kidding!

Teddy: I’m not. But I have an idea.

Narrator: I got two jars and filled one with water from the goldfish bowl. I even scraped some green stuff from the sides. Bart filled the other jar with water from the duck pool. Then we took the jars to Will.

Will: Hey, Teddy. Hey, Bart. What are you doing with all that green water?
Teddy: I’m having problems with my pet-sitting jobs. These are samples from the goldfish bowl and the duck pool. Could you look at them?

Will: Sure. We can compare them to some water from the lake.

Teddy: The lake water looks kind of green too.

Will: Do you know why?

Teddy: Uh…plants?

Bart: I don’t see roots or leaves.

Will: You’re looking at green algae. They don’t have any.

Teddy: *(Teddy grabs his notebook)* How do you spell that?

Will: A–L–G–A–E. Here—let’s look at your samples under the microscope.

Bart: Is that ziggy-zaggy stuff green algae?

Will: It sure is.

Teddy: *(Teddy looks and draws a picture)* What makes this stuff grow?

Will: Food—green algae and green plants make their own. They need sunlight to do that.

Teddy: Sunlight? *(Teddy grabs his notebook again)* I get it! The algae grew because I put the fish bowl and duck pool in the sun. What if I put them back in the shade?

Will: You won’t have an algae problem. But first scrub out the bowl and the pool, and put in clean water.

Bart: Case solved!
Teddy: Thanks for telling us all about algae.

Will: (grinning) I’m just getting started.

Teddy: Uh oh.

(Bart has a “let’s go” look on his face.)

Narrator: But it was too late to leave. Will had pulled out a file marked ALGAE. I got ready to be bored, but it was full of cool stuff. There was even a story about green polar bears.

Teddy: Hmm I wonder...

Narrator: At that moment there was a scratching noise at the door. It swung open.

Bart: It’s the lake monster!

Will: That’s no monster. That’s my dog, Molly.

Teddy: And she’s green from the algae in the lake!

Will: That’s right.

Bart: Wow.

Teddy: Cool.

Bart: Will Molly always be green?

Will: No, she’s about to have puppies. After that, she’ll stop swimming for a while and turn into a white dog again.

Teddy: But she’ll start swimming again and take the family.
Narrator: A few weeks later I came down to breakfast.

Mom: The Novaks and Mr. Garret called. They said you’re a very responsible pet sitter.

Dad: We’re both really proud of you.

Mom: Oh, and Will Roper stopped by. He wanted to tell you that Molly was white again. Said you’d understand.

Narrator: I sure did. Molly must have had her puppies!

Teddy: Can I go over to Will’s house? Can Bart come with me?

Mom & Dad: Sure, let’s all go.

Will: Come meet Molly and her pups.

Teddy: Wow.

Narrator: They were the cutest puppies I’d ever seen.

Will: This one’s got your name on it.

Teddy: *(shocked)* He’s mine?

Mom & Dad: He is

Bart: He likes you already. What are you going to name him?

Teddy: I’m calling him Al. For ALgae!