

# The Green Dog

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Characters: (9)

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

