

### **About the Book**

Scout is a very good dog. He is a seeing-eye dog who helps his human friend Vincent with all his daily activities because Vincent is blind. After graduating from a special training school where they learned how to be partners, Scout and Vincent became a perfect team! Vincent takes excellent care of Scout, giving him his favorite kinds of foods and taking him to the park to play their favorite game, and Scout takes care of Vincent by guiding him safely across busy streets, helping him find items that go missing, and making sure he avoids danger. Follow them as they make their way through a typical day that's full of fun and friendship.

### **Excerpt**

Vincent and I are both very friendly, but when I am wearing my harness, I am working and can't sniff around, play, or say hello to anyone. Being a guide dog is a big responsibility! Vincent and I are partners, the best of friends, and I love Vincent and Vincent loves me!


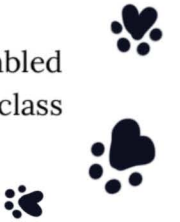


## Reading Group Guide

### Discussion Questions

1. Scout and Vincent both had to learn a lot before they could graduate and go home together. Why is it important for the owner and dog to meet and learn together before they can work together? What kind of things do you think they learned about?
2. Scout tells us that he is careful not to move his food bowl because his dinner might be late if Vincent cannot find it. Why is it important for Scout to not adjust the set up of a place that Vincent is familiar with and is comfortable in?
3. Scout notices that Vincent knows where everything is in the house and doesn't need to hold Scout's harness when they are inside their home. But, when they go outside, Scout guides Vincent around. Why do you think Vincent needs more help when they go outside?
4. Scout tells us that being a guide dog is a big responsibility and that he cannot play when he's working. Why do you think it is important for a guide dog to not get distracted while working?
5. What are some ways to interact with people and their guide dogs while being careful not to distract the dog and respect their boundaries while working?
6. While crossing the street, Scout tells Vincent that it's time to take a big step by slowing down before reaching the curb. What are some important signals you have learned to do that can help other people understand what you need?
7. Scout is a seeing-eye dog that helps Vincent navigate unfamiliar environments because he is blind. Do you think there are other types of working dogs that help people in similar circumstances?
8. On the subway, dogs have to be held in carriers. But, because Scout is a guide dog, he is able to stand normally. Why is it important that Scout is allowed to not be carried? How could being carried and unable to readily help Vincent affect Scout's job as a guide dog?

### Extension Activities

1. As a group, discuss ways that you benefited from having a supportive friend to help you in a situation that was unfamiliar to you. Maybe someone helped you understand a feeling you were confused by, or maybe you helped your sibling find something they lost.
  2. Have a mini scavenger hunt where you and a partner help each other find special objects in the classroom together. Think about how you can support your partner and help them find your objects together. Think about how it is important to help others and ways that you can do this outside of the classroom too.
  3. Laura dedicated a lot of research on this book and was assisted by a seeing disabled advisor to ensure all the information included was accurate. Suggest that your class
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remember this story outside of the classroom. Remind them when they see a guide team outside, to remember the lessons from *I Love Vincent* and respectfully observe the team and see how they work together.

### **Author Info**

Laura Ljungkvist was born, raised, educated, and started her career in Sweden. As a freelance illustrator, she worked with a variety of clients in many different fields in Stockholm. In 1993, Laura moved to New York City where she found work doing illustrations for high-end department stores, fashion companies, magazines and newspapers. Laura entered a new phase in her career when her first children's book was published in 2001, followed by many more, and products for children and adults. She still loves New York, and now lives in Brooklyn with her husband, daughter, and dogs, Jackson and Sofie.

### **Product Details**

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