

Lucy Tolleson

4th Grade – 1st Place

Duff Elementary

Teacher: Elizabeth Ashton

Tucker

My name is... well, I don't really have a name yet. But I'm a labrador. I am still living in the pound, but I know I will find the perfect human someday. I just woke up, and normally in the morning I finally get my food. The worker, Lauren, sets the kibble down on the floor. I eat every last crumb.

Now that breakfast is over, the people start coming in. A girl that looks around 20 comes over to my crate. I wag my tail, and smile. The girl does some weird movements with her hands and Lauren comes over. "You want to adopt her?" Lauren asks.

The girl nods and smiles, but she won't take her eyes off me. I like it. She takes me out of my crate and grins. I immediately love her. She takes me to her car, and we drive to her apartment. In the car, I notice she has a tag on her shirt. It says "My name is Callie. I'm deaf."

At dinner time, I'm trying to figure out what the word "deaf" means. But then I get too distracted by my hungriness. I try to communicate with her by whining and jumping. She thinks the jumping is funny, because she smiles. But she doesn't seem to notice the whining.

I start getting really hungry, and I start barking. She doesn't even notice. I start getting worried that there might be something wrong with her ears, and then I realize. That word "deaf". The hand movements. I figured it out. "Deaf" means she can't hear.

I tried to figure out a way I could tell her I was hungry. I nudged her leg and she looked down at me. I looked directly at her food and opened and closed my mouth. She finally figured it out. She looked down at me and her eyes went wide as if she forgot something.

She looked sorry and gave me a piece of steak. I definitely forgave her. She filled up my bowl with kibble, and I ate, and ate, and ate. It was the best bowl of kibble ever.

A month later, we had figured out ways to communicate with each other. I even learned a little bit of sign language. If I jumped on the couch and layed down it meant wanted to snuggle. If I put my paw up to my mouth it meant I was hungry. And if I yawned, it of course meant I was tired.

I found ways to communicate with her and she found ways to communicate with me. She named me Tucker, and I loved it. We have been best friends ever since.