

Tricks Lydia Taught Ears

Ears did tricks for two biscuits. First I had him sit up. He's such a big dog that he wobbled back and forth like a slowing-down top afore he finally caught his balance. I didn't want to hurt his feelings, but he doggie grinned like he was a-laughing at hisself, so I figured it was okay for me to laugh, too. Besides, I really couldn't keep the giggles from pouring out. For his next trick, I had him lie down and roll over. He does that real fast. I guess he wants to get his treat as soon as he can. I saved the rest of them biscuits for the next time me and him got together.

Then I pulled out the rubber ball. His eyes glued onto that ball like it was his ticket to Heaven! I wiggled it back and forth and up and down. Ain't no way his eyes would let that ball out of his sight. Finally, I pulled the ball behind me and throwed it as hard as I could. 'Go get it, boy!'" I said.

I don't think I had to tell him. He shot off like a cannon ball. He brung it back to me all slobbery. Dogs is great, but they sure be messy sometimes. I throwed it a few more times. Then I wiped the ball and my hands off with my hankie and put the ball back in my pocket.

He turned his head to one side and looked at me all sad like. "Rats, is that all?" he seemed to ask.

"That's it for today," I told him as I gived his head a quick pat. Then I pulled out the comb.

He turned his head to the other side. "What's that?" I knowed he wondered.

I wished I could sit down on the curb, but I couldn't get my school clothes all dirty. If I could, I would let him lie down and put his big old head in my lap as I combed him. Instead, I leaned over and combed him the best I could whilest he stood up. Him being such a big dog made it easier. "Good dog, Ears," I told him as I pulled the comb through his hair.

"Oh, this is nice!" he seemed to think, as he shivered and looked up to Heaven like he was a-thanking God for his new comb that was a-scratching his back. I tried to be real careful with all them mats he had, pulling them out with my fingers afore using the comb on him.