

## Core Skills Analysis

### Reading Comprehension

- Mila practiced connecting the text to her own life experience by relating 'When Dogs Work' to her service dog, enhancing personal engagement and understanding.
- She identified the main idea and supporting details, developing skills in summarizing and capturing the essence of informational texts.
- By listing different types of working dogs and their duties, Mila sharpened her ability to categorize information and recognize organizational structures in nonfiction texts.
- Engaging with a text about service dogs likely expanded her vocabulary related to animals and jobs, supporting language development.

### Writing and Critical Thinking

- Mila practiced organizing information logically by creating a list that matches types of dogs with their job duties.
- She used critical thinking to differentiate various roles working dogs perform, deepening her understanding of the diversity in animal helpers.
- Summarizing the main idea and details required Mila to evaluate and prioritize information, an important reading comprehension and writing skill.
- Reflecting on the text in relation to her own experience likely helped Mila make meaningful personal connections that support memory and empathy.

### Tips

To extend Mila's learning, encourage her to explore different working dogs through hands-on projects such as interviewing a trainer or visiting a local service dog organization. She could create a presentation or poster illustrating various working dog roles, including images and fun facts. Incorporating a creative writing prompt, like imagining a day in the life of her own service dog or another working dog, can deepen empathy and narrative skills. Additionally, a simple research activity comparing working dogs across cultures or climates can add a global perspective. These approaches not only reinforce comprehension but also promote curiosity and experiential learning.

### Book Recommendations

- [Dog Heroes: True Stories of Courage and Loyalty](#) by Janet Halfmann: An engaging collection of real stories about courageous working dogs and their heroic acts.
- [Service Dogs](#) by Kelly Milner Halls: A beginner-friendly informational book explaining the important roles of service dogs and how they assist people.
- [Officer Buckle and Gloria](#) by Peggy Rathmann: A charming picture book that highlights teamwork between a police officer and his dog as they help keep the community safe.

### Learning Standards

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.2 – Identify the main topic of a multiparagraph text as well as the focus of specific paragraphs.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.5 – Know and use various text features to locate key facts or information in a text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.8 – Describe how reasons support specific points the author makes in a text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2 – Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

### **Try This Next**

- **Worksheet:** Create a chart matching different working dog breeds to their specific job duties with an illustration column.
- **Writing prompt:** Compose a short story imagining a day in the life of Mila's own service dog, highlighting its tasks and emotions.

### **Growth Beyond Academics**

This activity likely supported Mila's emotional development by allowing her to connect personally to the text, fostering a sense of pride and empathy for her service dog. Organizing information and summarizing details show growing confidence and focus in academic tasks, while reflecting on service animals can increase her awareness of responsibility and care.