

# Pepsi The Problem Puppy

## Teaching Notes

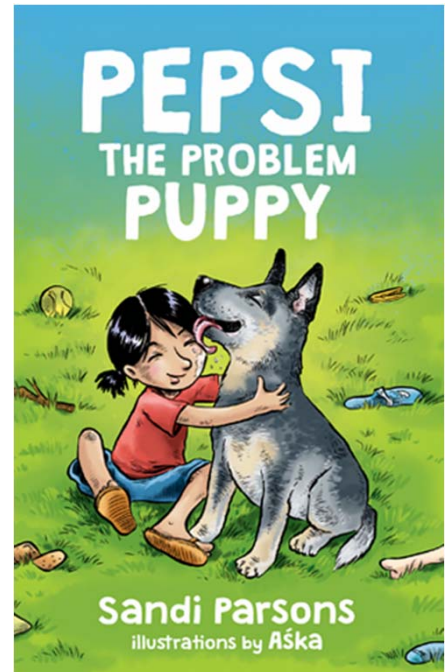
### About the Book

From the moment Pepsi launches into her new household it's clear that she is disruptive, definitely NOT house-trained and boy can she slobber!

"Pepsi poked her head out. She looked at the last sausage still sitting on the carpet, and licked her lips. In a flash, Pepsi bounced out, grabbed the sausage and scurried backwards into her hidey-hole. There was a loud slurp. Then a burp."

Pepsi's left a trail of destruction in her wake and Rosie's mum has had enough. Will Rosie have to say goodbye to Pepsi?

A dog story stamped with Pepsi's Paw of Approval (and extra slobber!!)



### About Pepsi



Pepsi Parsons is a disgracefully behaved but sweet-natured blue heeler. As a working dog, Pepsi takes her role of Canine Story Advisor seriously, putting much thought and practice into the antics and shenanigans of her fictional counterpart.

In her spare time, Pepsi enjoys lazing in the sun and volunteers as Chief of Border Security for her household.

[www.pepsiparsons.com.au](http://www.pepsiparsons.com.au)

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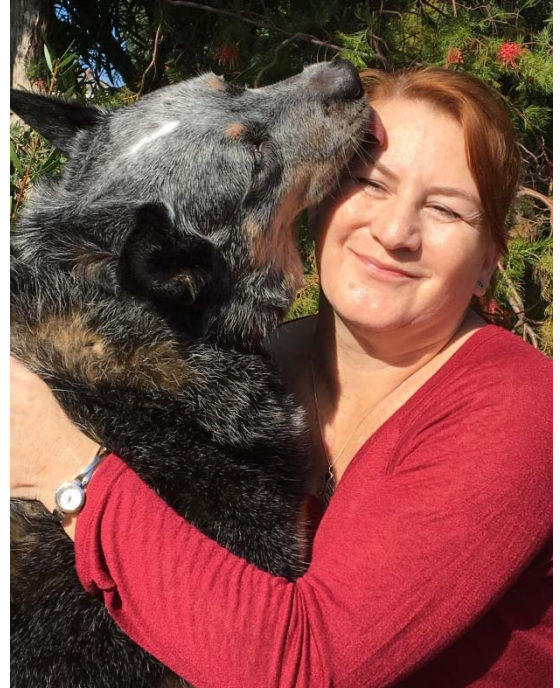
### About the author

Sandi Parsons is at heart a Book Nerd. A children's librarian/Book Warrior by day, she sings along to Cyndi Lauper songs (rather badly) while posting pictures of her disgracefully behaved blue heeler, Pepsi Parsons in her free time.

Sandi considers her role as Guardian to her gifted lungs one of her many victories in her on-going battle with Cystic Fibrosis.

She lives in Western Australia with her husband and a 'To Be Read' pile of books so high that they frequently threaten to cause a book-a-launch.

[www.sandiwrites.com.au](http://www.sandiwrites.com.au)



### About the illustrator



Aśka is a children's book illustrator and a scientist, as well as a global citizen, who now calls Australia home.

Through her illustrations, she loves to create energetic characters with a curious streak - the best type of friend to take on an adventure uncovering the wonderfully diverse and inspiring world around us.

Having never owned a dog, Aśka needed to do lots of research, looking at blue heelers in particular. She studied their body shape and movement to create illustrations that reflect the dynamic and slightly naughty nature of the real Pepsi Parsons.

[www.askaillustration.com](http://www.askaillustration.com)

# Pepsi The Problem Puppy

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### Recommended for

- Suits confident younger readers aged 7 – 9
- Read aloud suitable for ages 5+

### Key Curriculum Areas

Learning Areas:

- English
- General Capabilities: Critical and creative thinking
- Personal and social capacity

### Reasons to study this book

- To encourage beginner readers
- To discuss situations that are familiar to beginner readers
- Examples of practical and creative problem solving
- To teach positive values in regards to family
- Responsible pet ownership
- Persuasive writing exercises
- Procedural writing exercises

### Themes

- Responsible pet ownership
- Dog training
- Family life



# Pepsi The Problem Puppy

## Teaching Notes



### Discussion Questions and Activities

- Look at the front cover, does the picture or the title give you any clues about the contents of the book. What do you think the story will be about?
- Rosie has wanted a puppy 'forever'. Write a persuasive letter aimed at convincing your parents you are responsible enough to have a pet.
- At the end of the first chapter, Pepsi has disappeared into the kitchen. What do you think will happen next? Write the next chapter.
- "Pepsi Parsons went past fast." Jacob clapped his hands. Jacob uses alliteration in this speech. What is alliteration? What other examples of alliteration can you find in the book? Create some examples of alliteration yourself.
- Use three adjectives to describe your first impressions of the characters in Rosie's family. How are they similar/different? How would you describe their family relationship?
- When Pepsi ran up and down the street during the middle of the night, Rosie followed and tried to bring her back home. Was that the right thing to do? What else could she have done? What would you do if your pet ran away in the middle of the night?
- Rosie tries to train Pepsi, without much success. How would you / have you trained a pet? Write a procedure for training your pet.
- Rosie wants to train Pepsi in order to convince her mum that she is responsible enough to have a pet. What things do you do to convince your parents that you are responsible?
- Why do you think Granny doesn't use Pepsi's real name?
- Write a short story about a naughty pet. What did they do wrong? How did they do it? Can it be fixed?

# Pepsi The Problem Puppy

## 🐾 Teaching Notes 🐾

### Discussion Questions and Activities

- Rosie lives with her Mum, Dad, her little brother and her Great-Granny. At the end of the book Pepsi is included as part of the her family. Who makes up your family? Do you have a pet in your family? Draw your family portrait and include your pet (if you have one).
- Continue the story. What do you think will happen next? Will Pepsi behave at dog training? Will she create more havoc? Write the next chapter.
- Do you have a Canine Story Advisor? Or a Feline Story Advisor? Or perhaps you have a Hippopotami Story Advisor or a Dragon Story Advisor? How will they help you write your story? Do they do / say that gives you story ideas?
- Rewrite one of the scenes from Pepsi's point of view. Is she naughty on purpose?
- Write a book review for Pepsi the Problem Puppy. What did you like / dislike about the book? Who would you recommend this book to and why?
- Create an information report on an animal that can be kept as a pet. Include information on diet, appearance, behaviour and care.
- Write a recount of Pepsi's shenanigans.



# Pepsi The Problem Puppy

## Teaching Notes

### Interview with Sandi

#### **Where did the idea for *Pepsi the Problem Puppy* come from?**

Not long after we brought Pepsi home, my husband and I noticed we had started a running commentary on Pepsi's antics. We would say things like, "Pepsi Parsons went past fast" and "Pepsi Parsons pounced". Because of the alliteration, these words stuck in my head, and initially I thought I would write a picture book filled with Pepsi's antics, using mostly alliteration. It turned out that the real Pepsi needed far more words than a picture book allows to describe her behaviour.

#### **How long did it take to write?**

I wrote the first draft in twelve weeks. Which is quite fast for me. Normally, books take me a lot longer. Don't be fooled, the first draft is only the beginning, I then rewrote Pepsi the Problem Puppy fifteen times over the next two years until I thought the story was ready to be turned into a book. Then the manuscript needed to be edited. Next Aśka drew the illustrations. It took three and half years from the day I started writing about Pepsi until it finally became a book.

#### **What is your favourite scene and why?**

My favourite scene to write was Pepsi running around with sausages bouncing behind her. The real Pepsi has never stolen sausages, although she has hijacked many other food items. Her table manners are sadly lacking and she has the loudest burp I've ever heard, so it wasn't a huge stretch to visualise her doing these antics and write about them.

#### **Who's your favourite character in *Pepsi the Problem Puppy*?**

I have two – Pepsi and Granny. Both of these characters are heavily based on their real counterparts, so they are extra special compared to the characters I made up. Although I'm pretty sure when I was ten I would have liked to have had Rosie for a friend.

#### **Do you plan to write any more books about Pepsi?**

At the moment I'm busy writing other stories, however my Canine Story Advisor keeps nudging me and telling me to write another story about Pepsi – so maybe one day I will!

You can find out more about Sandi at [www.sandiwrites.com.au](http://www.sandiwrites.com.au)



# Pepsi The Problem Puppy

## 🐾 Teaching Notes 🐾

### Interview with Aśka

#### **What challenges did you face drawing Pepsi?**

The first thing that drew me to the project was Pepsi's shenanigans and energy, so this was something I really wanted to convey in my illustrations. However the biggest challenge was to draw Pepsi in a stylised or non-realistic way - as an illustrated character, but with enough recognisable features to still connect her to the real Pepsi Parsons.

First, I had to research the way that blue heelers move and play by looking at lots of pictures, both of Pepsi and of other dogs on the internet. Then I had to exaggerate these and make them a bit more cheeky, especially the dog's facial expressions, so that the illustrations would convey the general vibe of mischievousness surrounding Pepsi.

#### **How long did it take to draw the illustrations?**

Drawing the illustrations for the project took about 3 months.

The initial character sketching stage took two weeks, where me and Sandi worked out how Pepsi would look and move in various illustrations. Then I sketched illustration ideas for every chapter and we discussed these some more. This took another few weeks.

Finally we decided on the cover and I went away to produce the final artwork - all digital, over a space of a month or so.

When the book was being put together we had to tweak a few details in the pictures, and this took longer still, but I think it was all worth it because the final product came out looking great!

#### **What is your favourite scene and why?**

The sausage scene. I love the image of Pepsi running through the house with a string of sausages trailing behind her, contrasted by Mum's stern look. The conflict and tension between these two characters is central to the story and it reaches a peak at this point of the book.

This is part of the reason why the illustration is broken up across the two pages - the physical space between the angry Mum and naughty Pepsi heightens the tension.

#### **Who's your favourite character in *Pepsi the Problem Puppy*?**

Definitely Pepsi! She is a lot like me! A bit naughty, a bit too crazy but meaning well, and very lovable!

You can find out more about Aśka at [www.askaillustrations.com/about.html](http://www.askaillustrations.com/about.html)

# Pepsi The Problem Puppy

## Teaching Notes

### Interview with Pepsi

**What do you like best about being a Canine Story Advisor?**

I like thinking up things that the fictional Pepsi could do and acting them out. It's not being naughty, it's research!

**What's the naughtiest thing you've ever done?**

I don't believe I've ever done anything naughty. I'm a good girl.

My writer says it was the time I licked the spines off her Stephen King books. She says that was a disgraceful thing for a Canine Story Advisor to do. In my defence I was home alone and the books were tasty.



**What is your favourite scene and why?**

My favourite is when my fictional counterpart ate the cat food. I like cat food it's my favourite.

Or perhaps the sausages. I like sausages, they're my favourite.

Or perhaps the bone. Bone's are definitely my favourite.



**Is there anything you have done for 'research purposes' that didn't make it into the book?**

Once, I pretended to be a doctor and performed surgery on my squeaker.

Things didn't go well for the squeaker.



You can find out more about Pepsi Parsons at [www.pepsiparsons.com.au](http://www.pepsiparsons.com.au)



# Pepsi The Problem Puppy Word Sleuth

K H T E J J S A U S A G E S D I I P E P  
Q S K C O S T K E K T Z U F H D S T I B  
T R U E B B Y F L H I T Q H Y Y G P R R  
T C K T W P A Z I D U H J L E O Z D S B  
F Q H Q Y Q K P O R U I V I D E A M W C  
W Q Y M Q Y U L E F E C Z G F I L S G O  
J N F I D P X D R Y S V K H Y E S E A B  
I Z N Z X I N B K D N K I T G V D P R K  
M C P V G U O E S Y C L T N B Q L C Y R  
U B F T H N Z N E C A O I I L W R P A G  
E D V T E Z S J A S H N D N D A P E T M  
G L G I Q N Z H D D I K E G S U O V B K  
W I O Z O E O I E A G P H J P G P Q M D  
C T O S J B E J R J I N T M R F S P O Q  
L W R F K A T T S F Z H N A J Y I Z M B  
S A A K E B L A N K E T N U F U C D N H  
P W A N L I O D W L I N H L B Z L R B H  
E K F E X G S X Y R Y R D L V Q E T S R  
G E F J B Q S O I C T H T V O Y G U D D  
B A B T S F F N R W Y F N E I S P E P K

Pepsi  
sausages  
puppy  
socks  
duck

Parsons  
Rosie  
training  
heeler  
popsicle

bone  
Granny  
thunder  
blanket  
lightning



# Pepsi The Problem Puppy Word Sleuth Answer Key

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ S A U S A G E S \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 \_ S K C O S \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ H \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
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 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ O \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ R \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ I S P E P \_ \_ \_

Pepsi  
 sausages  
 puppy  
 socks  
 duck

Parsons  
 Rosie  
 training  
 heeler  
 popsicle

bone  
 Granny  
 thunder  
 blanket  
 lightning



# Pepsi The Problem Puppy



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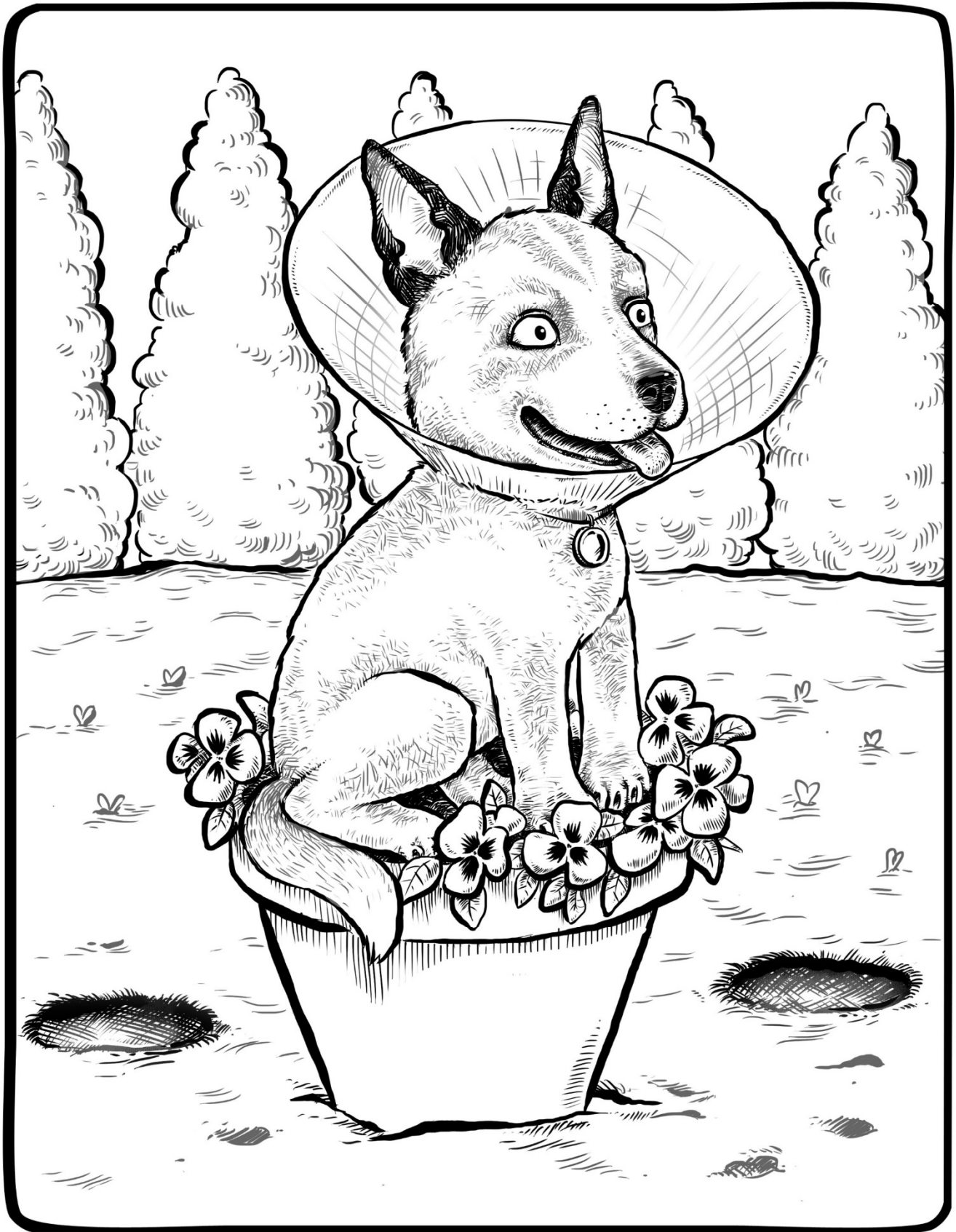


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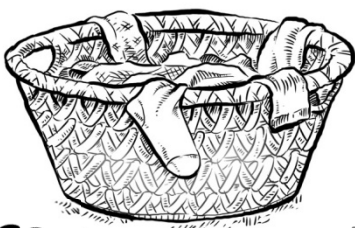
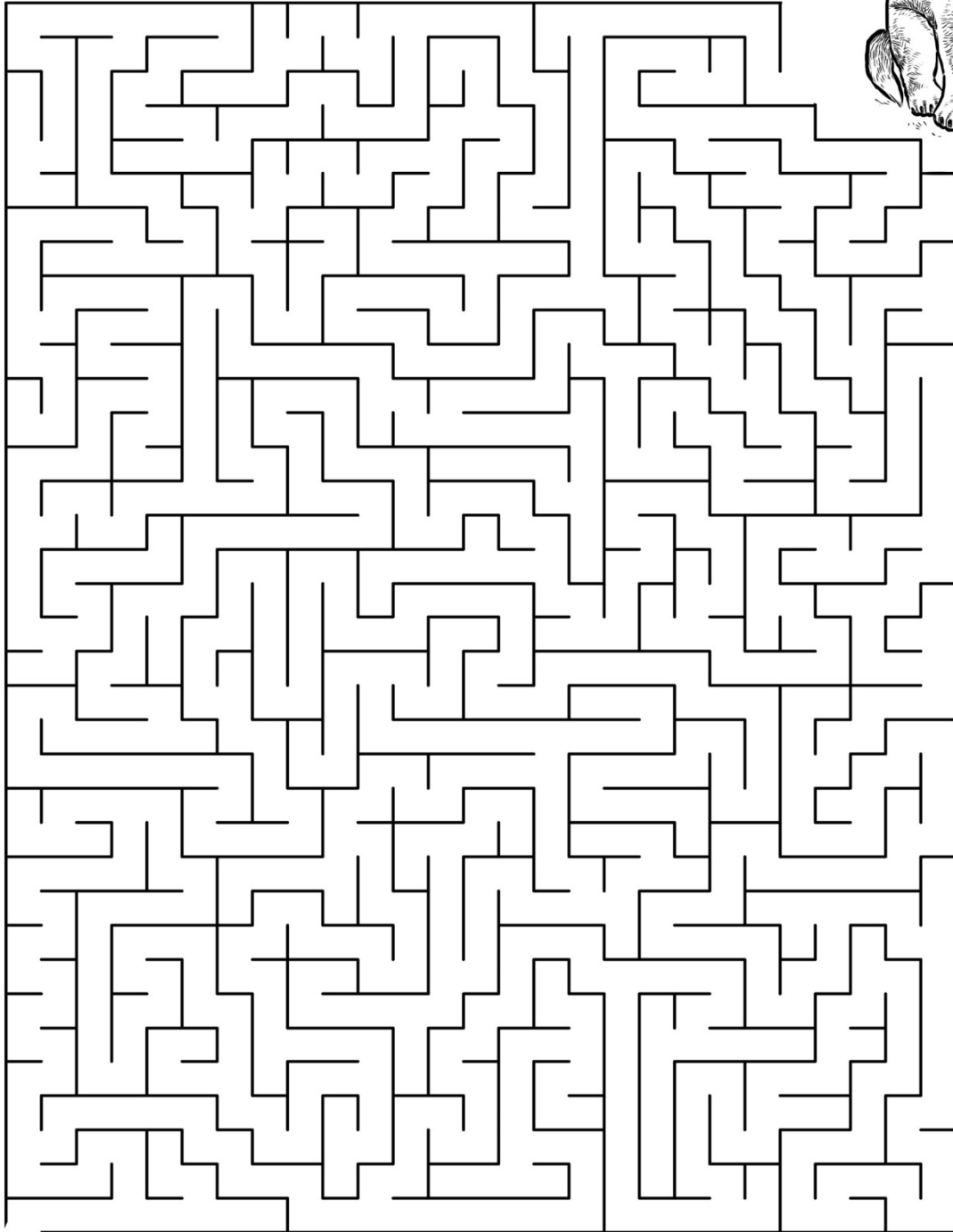


# PEPSI THE PROBLEM PUPPY

Help Pepsi find  
the laundry basket



START



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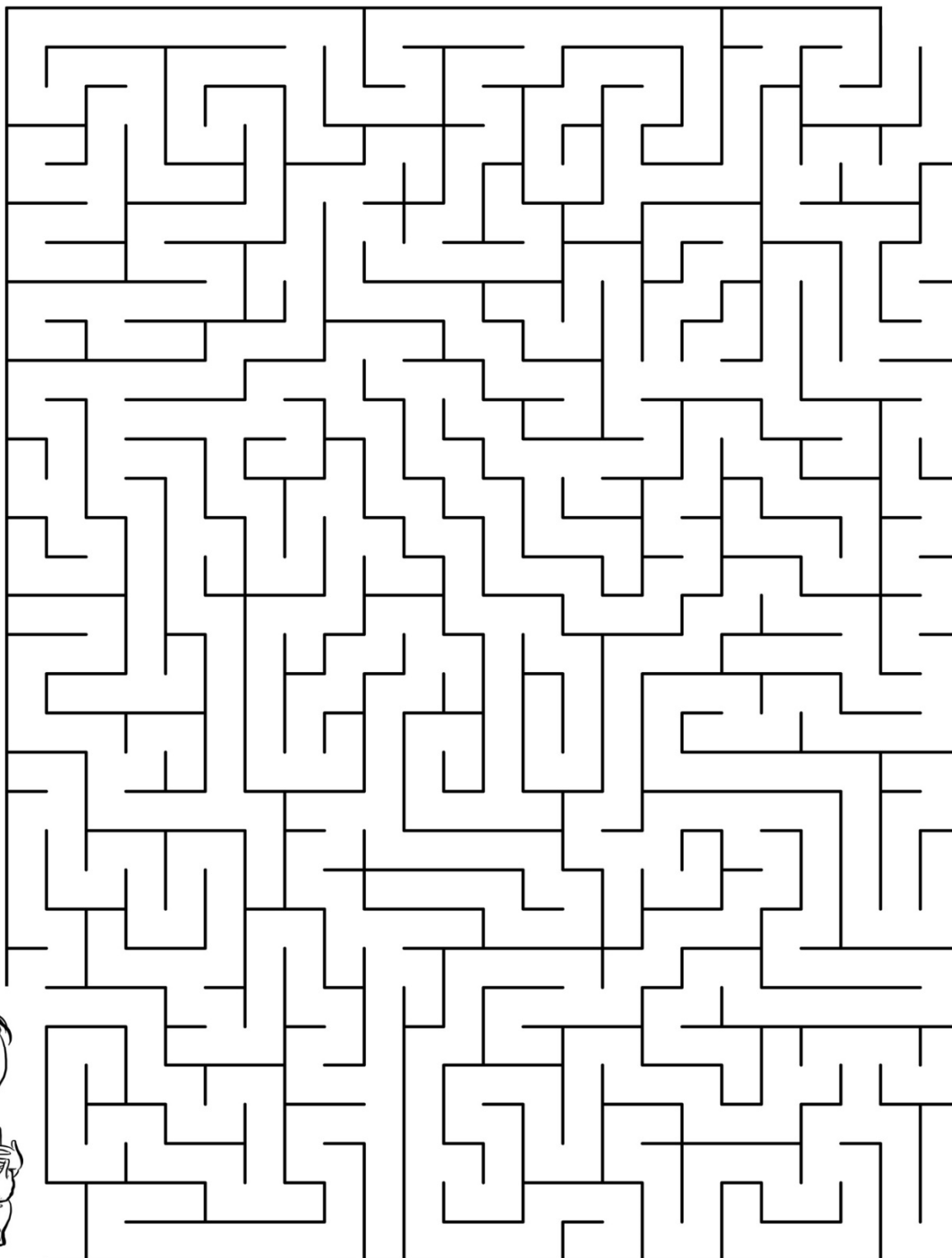
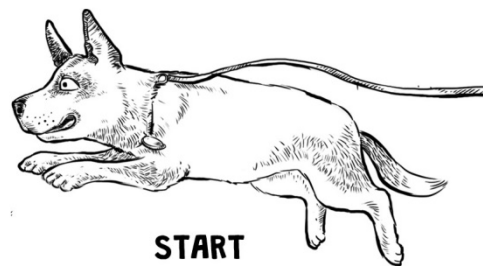
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# PEPSI THE PROBLEM PUPPY

Help Pepsi  
reunite with Rosie



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# PEPSI

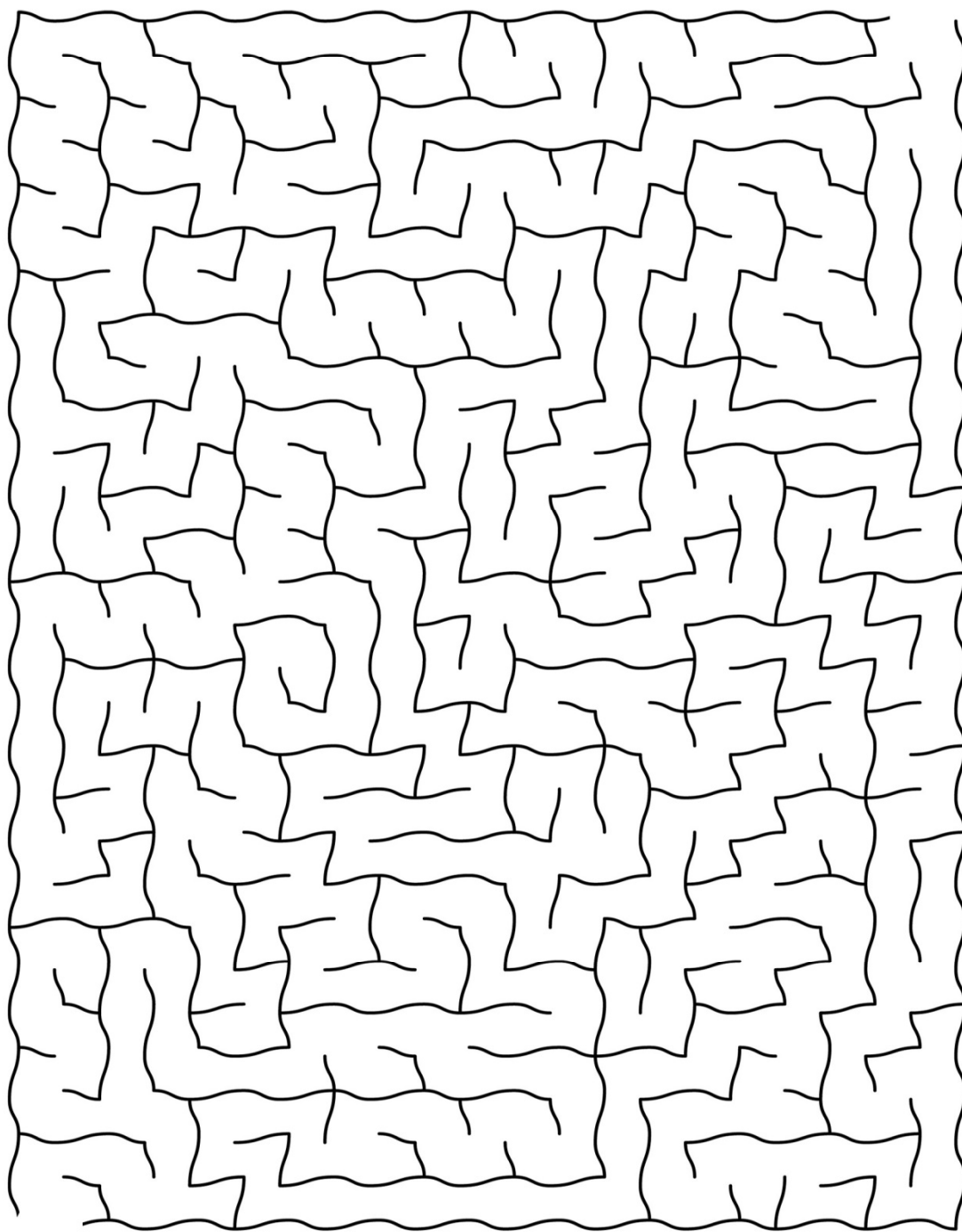
THE PROBLEM

# PUPPY

Help Pepsi  
find her bone



START



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# PEPSI

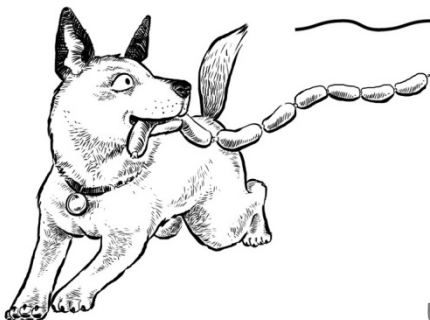
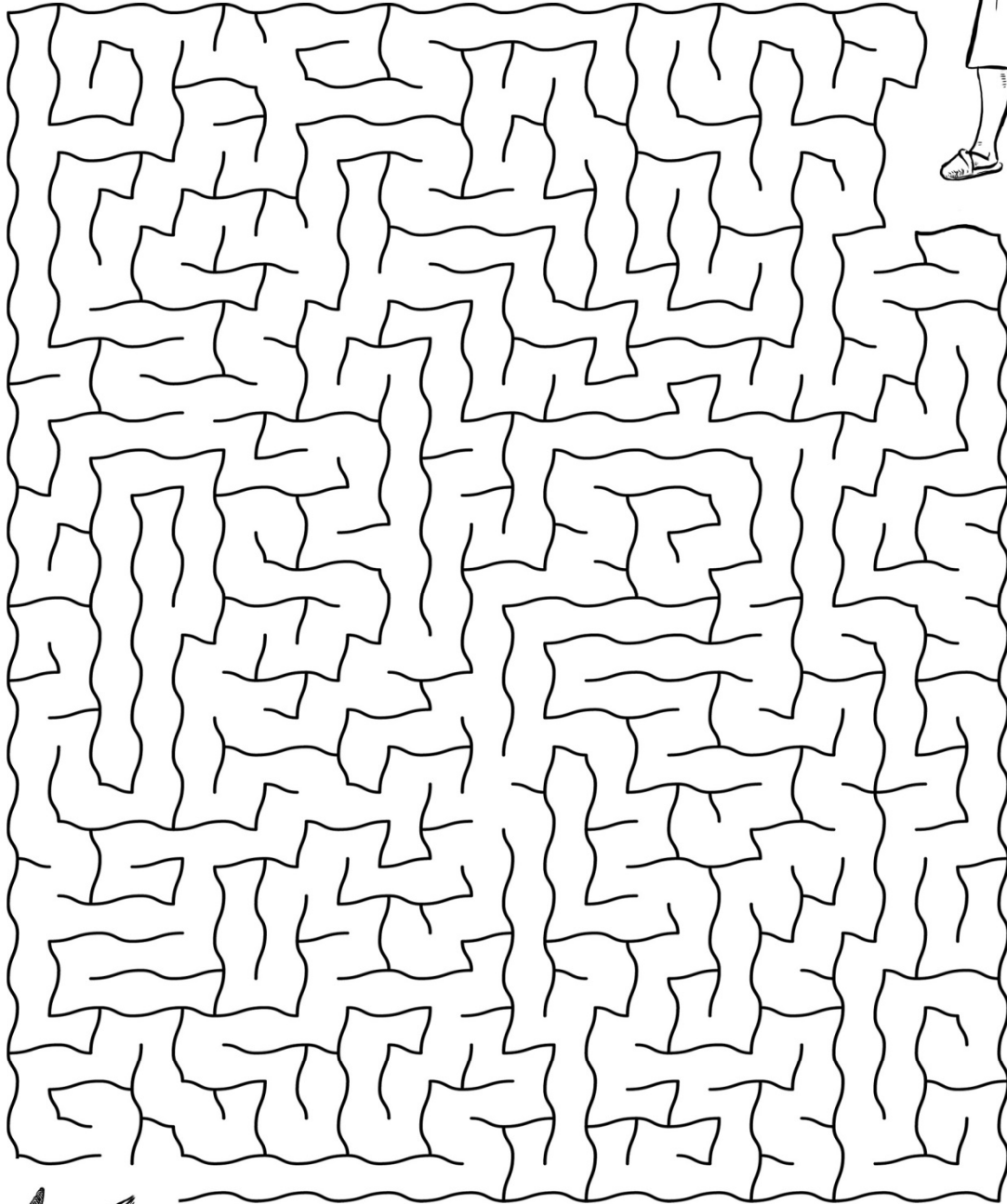
THE PROBLEM

# PUPPY

Help Mum find  
the sausages



START



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