

Her master WAS *tired*, and *slept* soundly and long—very much longer than he HAD *intended*. At last he WAS *awakened* by Fido's *licking* his face.

The dog *saw* that the sun WAS nearly *setting*, and *knew* that it *was* time for her master to go. The man *patted* Fido, and *jumped* up, much troubled to find he HAD *slept* so long.

He *snatched* up his cloak, *threw* it over his horse, *untied* his bridle, *sprang* into the saddle and, *calling* Fido, *started* off in great haste. But little Fido DID NOT *seem* ready to *follow* him.

She *ran* after the horse and *bit* at his heels, and then *ran* back again to the woods, all the time *barking* furiously. This she *did* several times; but her master *had* no time to *heed* her foolish pranks, and *galloped* away, thinking she WOULD *follow* him.

At last the little dog *sat* down by the roadside, and *looked* sorrowfully after her master, until he HAD *turned* a bend in the road.

When he *was* no longer in sight, she *sprang* up with a wild bark and *ran* after him. She *overtook* him just as he HAD *stopped* to *water* his horse in a brook that *flowed* across the road. She *stood* beside the brook and *barked*

so savagely, that her master *rode* back and *called* her to him; but, instead of *coming* to him, she *darted* off down the road, still *barking*.

Her master DID NOT *know* what to think, and *began* to fear that his dog WAS *going* mad. Mad dogs *are* afraid of water, and *act* strangely when they *see* it. While the man WAS *thinking* of this, Fido *came* *running* back again, and *dashed* at him furiously. She *leaped* up on the legs of the horse, and even *jumped* up and *bit* the toe of her master's boot; then she *ran* down the road again, *barking* with all her little might.

Her master WAS NOW *convinced* that she *was* mad, and, *taking* out his pistol, he *shot* her.

He *rode* away quickly, for he *loved* her dearly, and DID NOT *wish* to *see* her *die*; but he HAD NOT *ridden* very far when he *stopped* as suddenly as if he HAD himself *been* shot. He *felt* quickly under his cloak for his saddle bags. They *were* not there!

HAD he *dropped* them, or HAD he *left* them behind in the wood? He *felt* sure he MUST HAVE *left* them behind, in the wood, for he COULD NOT *recall* *picking* them up or *fastening* them

to his saddle. He *turned* quickly about, and *rode* back again as fast as his horse *could go*.

When he *came* to the brook, he *said*, "Poor Fido!" and *looked* about, but he *could see* nothing of her. After he *had crossed* the stream he *saw* some drops of blood upon the ground; and, all along the road, as he *went*, he still *saw* drops of blood. Poor little Fido.

Tears *came* into the man's eyes, and his heart *began* to ache, for he *understood* now why little Fido had *acted* so strangely. She *was* not mad at all. She *knew* that her master *had left* his precious bags of gold, and she *had tried* to tell him in the only way she *could*.

Oh, how guilty the man *felt* as he *galloped* along and *saw* the drops of blood by the road-side! At last he *came* to the wood, and there, all safe, *lay* the bags of gold; and there, beside them, with her little nose *lying* over one end of them, *lay* faithful Fido, dead.

Sentences.

- Nº 1. Fido trotted cheerfully at the horse's heels.
 „ 2. The beautiful horse was covered with sweat.

- „ 3. The master stopped, dismounted, and tied his horse to a tree.
 „ 4. He took from the saddle his heavy saddle bags, filled with gold.
 „ 5. Fido did not sleep soundly, for her master had told her to watch.
 „ 6. He snatched up his cloak, sprang into the saddle, and, calling Fido, started off.
 „ 7. She ran after the horse and bit at his heels, and then ran back again to the woods.
 „ 8. Her master did not know what to think, and began to fear that his dog was going mad and, taking out his pistol, he shot her.
 „ 9. He had not ridden very far when he stopped and felt quickly for his saddle bags.
 „ 10. He turned quickly about, and rode back again as fast as his horse could go.
 „ 11. At last he came to the wood and there, all safe, lay his bags of gold, and, beside them, lay faithful Fido, dead.

Questions.

What is the subject of this lesson? Who was Fido's master? Did they go far? What did the master do when he stopped? What did Fido do? Did she wake him? Tell me what happened afterwards, in a few words. Why did the master kill Fido? Did he miss anything afterwards? What did he do next? What did he find?