

TREE Chat: All About Pet Care

An activity of "Tee and Boba"



Hamsters Tee and Boba are classroom pets. They made their first appearance in *What's Up* this month.

Read "Tee and Boba" (page 17, *What's Up* July 2021). Oh dear! The hamsters have just discovered that nobody is coming to feed them on Monday as it is the September break.

1. Imagine what is going to happen next and draw it in the box below. Be as imaginative as you like! Share your picture with your classmates.

What happens next to Tee and Boba:

2. Turn to your partner and take turns answering the following prompts:
 - a) If you have a pet, talk about your pet. Why do you enjoy keeping it?
 - b) If you do not have a pet, would you like to have one? Why or why not?
 - c) What does it mean to be a responsible pet owner? Why is it important?

Here is an acronym you can use to grow your conversations. This acronym helps you to build upon a topic and keep yourself on track.

T – Tell what you think (*Your main statement*)

R – Reason(s) for saying so (*Share why you say that*)

E – Elaborate (*Explain your reasons*)

E – Examples (*Provide personal experiences to support your statements*)

Here is an example of what a conversation from 2a) may look like. Note that you don't have to follow the same order of T-R-E-E all the time.

Example of a TREE chat showing responses to question 2a:

(Tell) I have a few guppies and they are very pretty!

(Reason) Their tails are brightly colored and they swim so gracefully. They are like dancers with long, flowy skirts.

(Elaborate) I keep them in a tank with some aquatic plants and pebbles.

(Example) Sometimes when I'm tired or stressed, I look at them gliding in their tank and I feel more peaceful and relaxed.

(Tell) They're very interesting fish...

(Reason) ... because they give birth to their young alive.

(Example) I once bought a female guppy without realising it was pregnant, and the next day, I saw tiny baby guppies in the tank!

(Elaborate) They were hiding among the plants and were so small I nearly missed them. I separated them from the mother fish as they could get eaten.

(Tell) Fish are not very smart in that sense. Still, I love keeping my guppies and have lots of fun decorating their tank.

3. Try TREE chatting about any other topic the two of you would like to have a good conversation about. Enjoy!