

Read each sentence and guess the meaning of the word in bold from the context. Then match the word with its meaning from the box below. Circle the words in the sentence that helped you guess the word's meaning.

- f 1. I was really surprised to see dogs in libraries. I didn't **expect** this.
- ___ 2. The five-year-old boy was **struggling** with his homework because he'd been sick and missed a week of school.
- ___ 3. The handlers **are in charge of** the dogs. That is, they are responsible for the dogs' behavior.
- ___ 4. The eight-year-old girl was reading much better after a few months in the program, and she became much more confident. As a result, her **self-esteem** grew.
- ___ 5. Hundreds of children **participated** in the R.E.A.D.[®] program last year. They had more fun reading because they had joined that program.
- ___ 6. The children are able to **focus on** the dog, so they are not giving their attention to their problems.
- ___ 7. If we **take the pressure off** of children, they can relax and perform better.
- ___ 8. I like to **be around** my dog. When I am with her, life is calm.

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| a. self-respect | d. are in control | g. be with |
| b. having a hard time | e. lower the stress | h. concentrate on |
| c. took part | f. think I would see | |