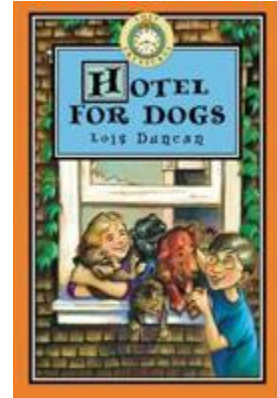


## HOTEL FOR DOGS by Lois Duncan

(Scholastic, 1971)

Andi and her brother Bruce hid a stray dog in an abandoned house down the block. Then they check in Red Rover, an Irish setter whose owner mistreats him. And MacTavish, who begs for scraps in the school playground. Soon she is running a dog hotel! But can she and Bruce keep the canine castle going, or will a bark give their secret away?



### Discussion Questions

1. Andi and Bruce's father is being transferred from New Mexico to New Jersey where their father will get training and a promotion. The family will be living temporarily with an elderly Aunt who is allergic to dogs. So Andi's beloved Beebe will have to be left behind with friends until they find a permanent home. At first Andi refuses to go without Beebe. Then on p. 4 Andi says: "When the time came she did. When you are 10 years old you go where your parents take you." Do you think this is true?  
(Issue of fairness)
2. New Kids in School. Why did Andi refuse to join in the game "Double Trouble" on the first day of school?
3. What kind of a kid is their next door neighbor Jerry?  
(Spoiled, two-faced, bully)  
What is it about Bruce's character that gives him the courage to stand up to Jerry?
4. Andi is an aspiring writer who is determined to beat Shakespeare at getting published before age 11. Read poem on page 21. Andi says that when she is upset she writes poetry – why do you think this helps her?
5. Review the various dogs that show up and become residents at the hotel. Why do you think Friday chose Andi's house to come to have her puppies?
6. Andi and Bruce have to trespass to get into the vacant house. P. 48 Bruce says "This is somebody else's property, even if they're not living here. We really shouldn't be using it at all." They also have to "take" food for the dogs, and Andi "borrows" rugs and curtains from her Aunt to make the dog comfortable. On p. 75 Bruce says "But that material is not yours. Aunt Alice must have bought it for some reason. That's stealing, Andi!"  
Do you think they were justified in all the things they did wrong to harbor the animals? And if so why?
7. Aunt Alice. How do Andi and Bruce feel about Aunt Alice in the beginning of the book? How do their perceptions of her change over the course of the book?
8. In addition to being a rescue story this is also about moving to a new town where everything is unfamiliar. On p. 140 Bruce is surprised to hear himself say that "We belong in Elmwood. We like it here"  
Why do you think that Bruce and Andi finally felt at home in Elmford?  
Follow-up comment: Andi says – "We have friends here. Its home. Even if you are not born in a place, it starts being home as soon as you have friends."

9. When the Hotel scheme is finally revealed Mrs. Walker says – “Children have to be taught the rules of living. There are a lot of those that our own two haven’t yet learned.” What rules of living do you think Bruce and Andi’s mother is referring to? Do you think this is true?
10. How many of you have seen the movie? How would you compare the book to the movie?

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