

“Hooper and Jeremy”

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Who knows what a seeing eye dog is?

That’s right – a seeing-eye dog helps someone who is blind be independent. This special dog helps his partner walk down the street, go to the post office and visit friends. Before one of these special dogs begins his training with his partner, he lives with a foster family. This foster family raises him and cares for him from the time he is just a little puppy until the time he is a full-grown dog. Today, you’re going to meet a special dog by the name of Hooper and a few members of his foster family...

*(Jeremy puppet pops up)*

**JEREMY:** Mom! Mom! Mom! Is Dad almost home yet? (Jenny pops up)

**JENNY:** Mom’s outside Jeremy and Dad’s not home yet.

**JEREMY:** Oh Man, my very own puppy. I can’t wait!

**JENNY:** Jeremy, don’t forget what mom and dad said. This is a very special puppy. He is going to be a seeing-eye dog someday and we will only have him for a year and a half. We’ll raise him and care for him and teach him how to be a good dog – but then we have to give him back so he can finish his training and start his very important job helping someone who is blind.

**JEREMY:** Yea, Yea – whatever. But until then, he’s MY dog. I’m going to name him Hooper.

**NARRATOR:** Hooper and Jeremy were inseparable. Jeremy fed his puppy his breakfast and dinner every day, made sure Hooper ate his vitamins and got plenty of exercise. He took Hooper for long walks so he could meet all kinds of people and see things like cars, stores, baseball games and even other dogs. And every night, Hooper slept right on the bed with Jeremy. Hooper became Jeremy’s best friend.

*(Jeremy and Hooper puppets)*

**JEREMY:** Hooper, sit - - *(Hooper sits)* good boy!

Hooper - - Shake – *(Hooper shakes entire body)* - - not that way.....

Hooper - - lay down *(Hooper lays down)* - - Good boy!

Ok Hooper - - play dead *(Hooper plays dead)*

C’mon Hooper – let’s go play fetch *(Hooper and Jeremy are taken out of sight)*

**NARRATOR:** A year and a half went by very quickly. Before Jeremy knew it, it was time to give Hooper back. Mr. Brown who runs the Seeing Eye Dog Training Center is on his way to pick up Hooper. Let’s see how Jeremy is doing...

**BEN:** Man – Hooper sure is a great dog. Too bad you have to give him back today.

**JEREMY:** I’ve decided not to give him back.

**BEN:** But I thought you had....

*(Jeremy rudely interrupts)*

**JEREMY:** I know I'm supposed to give him back – but I'm not going to. I'm the one who's taken care of Hooper all this time. I'm the one who fed him and made sure he grew up big and strong.

**BEN:** But what about his training? Isn't he suppose to be a seeing-eye dog?

**JEREMY:** I don't care. I'm the one who taught him how to sit and behave. I did all the work and I'm NOT giving him back!!! Go away!

**BEN:** Ok, ok – I hope you know what you're doing.

*(Ben and Jeremy stomp off in opposite directions – Ben goes below and Hooper comes up and Jeremy hugs him)*

**JEREMY:** Hooper, I don't care what anyone says. You're my dog and I'm going to keep you forever.

*(Jenny comes up)*

**JENNY:** You know you can't do that. Hooper has a very important job to learn. He has to go back to Mr. Brown.

**JEREMY:** *(still hugging Hooper)* GO AWAY!!

**JENNY:** No – you can't make me! I want to take Hooper for a walk before he goes. Let me have him!

**JEREMY:** NO! He's mine and no one else can have him! Not you – not Mr. Brown!

**JENNY:** Dad's going to come in here and make you give him back.

**JEREMY:** I don't care! He can't make me – no one can!

**JENNY:** Well, Mr. Brown will be here any minute and he'll make you give him back – the dog belongs to him anyway.

**JEREMY:** How many times do I have to say it....I AM NOT GIVING HOOPER BACK!! *(He pushes Jenny – who runs off crying)*

*(Knock under the table)*

**JEREMY:** Go AWAY!

**Mr. Brown:** Jeremy, it's me, Mr. Brown. Can I come in?

**JEREMY:** *(mumbles)* whatever

**MR. Brown:** Jeremy, I know this is a tough day. God entrusted you with a little puppy to care for. You've worked hard raising Hooper and the two of you have become very close. You don't want to give him up and I understand that. However, God expects you to live up to your promise to return Hooper now that he is all grown up. You've done your job, but now it's time for Hooper to learn how to do his. God's plan for Hooper is that he will help someone who can't see. It's time to let him go, son. It's God's will.

**JEREMY:** *(sniff)* I know, you're right. Good bye Hooper, I'm going to miss you (he gives Hooper a hug and everyone goes below the table)

**NARRATOR:** Jeremy was sad for a while, but he also felt good about what he had done. Hooper was a great dog and would make great partner for someone who really needed him. A few weeks later, there was a knock on Jeremy's bedroom door.

**JEREMY:** Come in. *(Jenny comes up)*

**JENNY:** I have a surprise for you!

*(Bring up goofy dog)*

**JENNY:** Dad says we can keep him forever! What should we name him?

**JEREMY:** I know, let's name him "Keeper"

The end.