Danny is a Big Dog
Level C / 52 words / fiction

High frequency words:
and, big, has, is, little, with

Before reading
• Look at the cover and read the title.
• Possible discussion questions: “Who is on the cover with Danny? How are the two dogs alike? How are they different?”

Look through all the pictures
• Using the language in the story, discuss what is happening in each picture.
• Help the children find the high frequency words big and little.
• Help the children find the words that may be new to them: hole, stick, bone, and pest.

Reading the text
• Have the children read the text independently. Encourage them to read it again if they finish before the others in the group.
• While they’re reading, listen to each student individually and prompt them to use meaning, structure, and letter cues at difficulty. Praise the successful use of reading cues.

After reading
• Discuss the meaning, structure, and letter cues that you noticed students using correctly at difficulty.

• Literal comprehension: The answers are in the text. Ask, “Can you find the page where Penny digs a hole? What size is Danny’s bone?” Have students read the pages that support their answers.
• Inferential comprehension: The answers are in your head. Ask, “How do you think Danny’s bed compares with Penny’s bed? How do you think Danny feels about Penny?”

Word work
• Have the students locate the high-frequency words in the text and practice writing them.
• Introduce the concept of antonyms by explaining that big and little are opposites of each other. Find examples of items that are big and little throughout the text.
• Using magnetic letters, have students create words that rhyme with pest (nest, rest, and best).

Rereading for fluency
• Have the children read the story again, either independently or with a partner.
• Use this opportunity to listen to each child and again prompt for strategy use at difficulty.

Writing activity
• Have students write the sentence: “Penny is a big pest!” How should the sentence be read? Have the students write another sentence with an exclamation mark at the end. Then have them draw a picture that corresponds to what they have written. Encourage the independent attempts to spell words correctly.

FUN FACT
Penny is a Pembroke Welsh Corgi. Pembroke Welsh Corgis are a favorite dog breed of the British Royal Family. Queen Elizabeth II has had over 30 Corgis in her lifetime.

Teaching Points: Introducing new words; Cross-checking difficult words with pictures and story meaning; Rereading; Noticing punctuation (exclamation marks); Introducing antonyms; Practicing rhyming words that end with -est.