



# Togo and Balto to the Rescue

## READ ALOUD GUIDE

**Themes:** Courage, Teamwork, Heroism

**Book Brief:** The incredible true story of Togo and Balto, two brave sled dogs who raced through dangerous conditions to deliver life-saving medicine to a town in need!

**Author:**  
Storytime

**Illustrator:**  
Alena Tkach

## BEFORE READING

**The Cover:** Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

**The Pictures:** Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about the illustrations.

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask, "What does it mean to be a hero? Can animals be heroes too?" (Optional: Think-Pair-Share)

**Vocabulary:** Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

**Purpose for Reading:** "As we read, pay attention to what happens in Togo and Balto's journey. Think about what is their problem and how they solve it."



**Think Aloud:** "I'm noticing the connection between events. First, the town has sick people who need medicine. Then, Togo and Balto race through dangerous weather to deliver it. Finally, the medicine arrives and helps save the town. Each event connects to the next!"

## DURING READING

**Check for understanding & make connections:**

- What problem does the town have?
- Why do they need Togo and Balto's help?
- What challenges do the dogs face on their journey?
- How do Togo and Balto help save the town?

## AFTER READING

**Our Purpose:** "What was Togo and Balto's problem? How did they solve it?"

**Extending Our Thinking:** Ask students, "What makes someone a hero? How did Togo and Balto show bravery?" Encourage students to create a "Hero Certificate" or medal for either Togo or Balto (or both), decorating it with drawings and writing one sentence about why that dog is a hero. Students can share their certificates and explain what heroic action they're celebrating.

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- Explore 100 other free eBooks on Skybrary! Visit [www.Skybrary.org](http://www.Skybrary.org) to learn more.
- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.