

Dex: The Heart of a Hero

Based on the book by Caralyn Buehner

Idea: Older readers can read while younger readers act.

Cast of Characters:

Narrator – This part
can be shared by
several readers.

Cleevis
Dexter

Young Pup
Local Pets

Scene 1: On the sidewalks of Dexter's town.

Narrator: Dexter, a little dog with little legs and a little tail, and a little body that looked like a sausage sitting on four meatballs, was often overlooked. He no longer got invited to join the other dogs at play because they had grown tired of waiting for him to catch up to them. He seemed to have become invisible to everyone except Cleevis the tomcat.

Cleevis: (Standing over Dexter) Look people! I can stand right over Dex and not even ruffle my fur. He is so little!

Narrator: Everything about Dexter was little except for his dreams. He had big dreams. He dreamed of being a hero!

Dexter: (Flying through the air) It's a bird, it's a plane, it's Super Dex!

Cleevis: Hey, Dex! Wake up! You're dreaming again! (Laughter sounds.)

Dexter: (Moving out from under Cleevis and speaking to himself.) I know I can be more than just a little dog. I know I can!

Narrator: Dexter went to the library. He read every superhero comic book they had on the shelves. He watched every superhero movie on Netflix. He studied how to become a strong puppy dog. And he trained and trained and trained.

Dexter: (Running along the sidewalk) I can do this. I can make it to the corner today! I can leap over every crack in the sidewalk. I will become a super dog! Next, I will conquer that mountain of trash. I will climb to the top. Up and down until I am the strongest puppy in town!

Narrator: And every day Dexter worked at becoming stronger. Back and forth to the corner he ran. Up and down the garbage mountain he climbed, over and over

and over with his tongue hanging out. He was never giving up. He pushed himself to go farther and work harder.

Cleevis: Well look what's coming down the sidewalk. If it isn't little Dexter. He seems to be in a hurry to get nowhere.

Dexter: (Sliding right under Cleevis.) No time for you today, kitty cat! I am on a mission. No one will stand in my way today!

Scene 2: A few weeks later at Dexter's house.

Dexter: I am tired. My muscles are sore. I think it is time for bed. (Walking past the mirror, he flexes his muscles.) Wait! Is that me? Wow! I am pumped! I can move faster than a rolling ball! I am tougher than any rawhide chewy! I can leap fences in a single bound. I can run like the wind! I am Super Dex!!!!

Narrator: But Dexter felt that something was still missing.

Dexter: (Typing furiously on his computer.) Yes. This is exactly what I need. I'll add in this, too. Yes, this will make me look like the Super Dex that I am!

Narrator: After what seemed like a never ending wait, a small, brown package was delivered to Dexter's door. He ripped it open and ran to his room.

Dexter: (Looking in his mirror.) This is it! It is red and shiny and fits like a glove. The green cape makes me look like the Super Dex I am! I AM READY!!!

Narrator: So, with the courage of a lion, the strength of a bear, and the heart of a hero, Dexter set off to save his town.

Scene 3: Dexter's town

Young Pup: How will I ever make it to puppy school? This traffic is so busy! I'll never get across this street! I'm going to be late.

Dexter: Can I help you, Young Pup? It looks like you might need assistance getting across the street. I'll make sure you get to puppy school safely. (Dexter escorts Young Pup across the street at the corner.)

Young Pup: Wow! Look at that suit. You are a Super Hero! Thanks, Super Dex!

Cleevis: (Looking on from his porch.) Hey, Dex. Where's the costume party? Halloween was last week! (Laughter sounds from the other dogs and cats.)

Dexter: This suit lets people know I'm here to help them. I am Super Dex!

Cleevis: (Laughing loudly.) You mean super short, right?

Narrator: But Dexter was not stopped by Cleevis's teasing. That day he saved a mouse who had fallen into the gutter, tackled a purse snatcher before he got away, repaired his neighbor's water hose, found a lost kitten for its worried Mama Cat, kept a squirrel from jumping on the live electric wire, returned a lost library book he found left at the park, sprayed water on a burning trash can, and organized the neighborhood rats into a cleanup day. Dexter seemed to be everywhere at once helping people!

Dexter: This is the happiest day of my life! I AM SUPER DEX!

Scene 4: Back in Dexter's neighborhood

Dexter: What is all that racket? It sounds like everyone in the neighborhood is pounding on my door! I'd better go see who it is and what they want.

(Dexter opens his door and sees what appears to be every dog and cat in the neighborhood.)

Local pets: Cleevis is stuck in a tree! Hurry, Dexter! You have to save him!

(Dexter puts on his Super Dex cape and rushes out the door to the park.)

Dexter: Don't worry, Cleevis! Super Dex is on the way!

Cleevis: Hurry! I'm hanging by a claw and I don't think I can hold on much longer! That pesky squirrel I was chasing got away. I slipped. Please help me!

Dexter: (Whispering to himself.) How can I help Cleevis? He's way up in that tree. I don't see anything to climb. No ladder, no garbage mountain, no steps. Wait! We're in the park! (Yelling to the other pets.) Everyone hurry! I have an idea! I'll stand here (climbing onto one end of the playground's teeter-totter.) On the count of three, everyone jump onto that end. One! Two! THREE!

Narrator: The crowd jumped, and Dexter went flying into the air – ears and cape flapping in the wind!

Dexter: WHEEEEEEEEEEE!

Narrator: He landed safely on a branch near Cleevis!

Local Pets: Hurray! He landed safely! But now what will he do?

Narrator: Dexter whipped off his cape and tied all four corners securely to the dangling cat. Then he yelled . . .

Dexter: Let go, Cleevis! Just jump! You will be OK! Trust me!

Cleevis: (Letting go of the branch.) MEeeooowwww! I'm falling! MEOW!
MEOW! MEEEEOOOWWWWW!

Narrator: But just as Cleevis was meowing his loudest meow, the wind billowed the cape and it became a kitty parachute to gently float Cleevis safely to the ground. Meanwhile, Dex carefully slid to the ground to meet his neighbors in the park.

Local Pets: (Chanting wildly.) Super Dex! Super Dex! Super Dex! Super Dex! Super Dex!

Cleevis: Dex, I will never tease you again. You are a real Super hero! Thanks for saving me!

Narrator: Dex had never felt more a part of the neighborhood as he did that night – until the next morning when Cleevis appeared beside him in a shiny, blue cape.

Cleevis: Say, Dex, do you think you could use a partner?

Dexter: (Grinning from ear to ear.) Sure, Cleevis. It'll take some work, but we'll have you in Super Cat shape in no time.

Narrator: So with twice the brains and triple the brawn, our heroes march into the neighborhood. Always ready to lend a helping hand, um, paw.

(Dexter and Cleevis trot off paw in paw into the sunset.)