

**Level 5-4**  
**A Dog of Flanders**

**Workbook**

**Teacher's Guide and Answer Key**

# Teacher's Guide

## A. Summary

### 1. Book Summary

This is the story of a boy and a dog who were good friends. Nello and his grandfather lived in a small hut near Antwerp, Belgium. They sold milk for a living and were poor. One day, they found a dying dog by the road that had been beaten and thrown there by his master. They took the dog home and named him Patrasche.

Nello loved art, and he loved the miller's daughter, Alois. The miller did not like Nello, though, because Nello was poor. He did not let Alois see the boy again. Nello decided to enter an art contest that was to be judged by the artist Rubens. He hoped to win the contest and become famous so that he could marry Alois. But things went from bad to worse. First, his grandfather died. Then the miller accused him of stealing wheat from his mill. Because of that, Nello lost all of his customers, and he and Patrasche were kicked out of the hut.

Then Patrasche found a wallet with a lot of money in it. It was the miller's, and Nello returned it to the miller's wife. When the miller heard about it, he wanted to find Nello and Patrasche and take them into his home. But Nello had gone into the forest with Patrasche after he found out that he did not win the contest. The next morning, a woodcutter found their frozen bodies in the snow. The boy and his best friend were taken to Antwerp and buried side by side.

### 2. Chapter Summary

#### ► Chapter 1

This is the story of a boy and a dog who were good friends. Nello and his grandfather lived in a hut in a small town near Antwerp, Belgium. His grandfather sold milk, and Nello helped him. They were very poor but happy. One of the things that made them happy was their dog, Patrasche.

#### ► Chapter 2

When Patrasche was a puppy, he had a very bad master. His master made him pull carts full of pots and pans every day and would often kick him and hit him. One day, it was very hot, and Patrasche was not feeling well. His master kept beating him to make him pull the cart. Patrasche collapsed, but his master continued to beat him. He then threw Patrasche beside the road when he thought that the dog was dead. But Nello and the milk seller found

Patrasche and took him home. Patrasche never forgot their kindness, and he helped them by pulling their milk cart into town.

### ► Chapter 3

There was a mill near their hut. It was owned by the richest man in the village. His daughter Alois often played with Nello and Patrasche. Nello had two secrets: he loved art, and he loved Alois. One evening, he drew a picture of Alois, and her father saw it. The miller realized that Nello loved his daughter, but he didn't want her to fall in love with a poor artist. He stopped them from seeing each other again.

### ► Chapter 4

Nello often went to the church in the center of Antwerp because it had some beautiful paintings by the artist Rubens. Nello never had money to pay to see the paintings, but he loved to sit near the room where they were kept. One day when Nello was at the church with Patrasche, he saw a sign for an art contest the following week. Rubens himself would choose the winner, who would then be his student for one year. Nello decided to enter the contest. If he became famous, the miller would let him see Alois. Nello used a piece of cloth from the back of his vest to draw on, and he made his own crayons. Not long after that, Nello's grandfather died. Now Nello had to sell milk by himself.

### ► Chapter 5

As a sad Nello walked through the town with his cart that morning, he heard people talking about a theft. Someone had taken some wheat from the mill, and the miller said that it was Nello. Nello denied it, but everyone in the town needed to use the mill, and so they were afraid to make the miller angry. So Nello's customers all left him. Nello hoped that he would win the contest so that things would get better. But they got worse instead. The owner of the hut kicked him and Patrasche out because of the miller. Now they had nowhere to go, and, worse still, it started to snow.

### ► Chapter 6

Nello loaded their small cart and left the hut for Antwerp with Patrasche. He wanted to see who won the contest. On the way, they found the miller's wallet in the snow. It was full of money. Nello took the wallet to the miller's house and gave it to the miller's wife. He wanted her to tell the miller that he was not a thief.

## ► Chapter 7

At the church, Nello found out that he was not the winner of the contest. He began to cry. He and Patrasche walked into the forest and sat down near some trees. When the miller found out that Nello had returned his wallet, he decided to bring Nello back and take care of him like a son. But it was too late. In the forest, Nello and Patrasche lay close together in the snow. The next morning, a woodcutter found them frozen under a tree. The people in Antwerp buried them together. Nello and Patrasche were together in life, and they would be together in death forever.

## **B. Background and Themes**

★ **Loyalty:** After Patrasche was saved by Nello and his grandfather, he was loyal to Nello till death.

★ **Hope:** Even though everything was going badly for him, Nello continued to hope that he could someday marry Alois.

★ **Love:** Everyone showed love in this story, including the miller, who later decided to take Nello in and take care of him.

★ **Honesty:** Nello could have taken the money in the wallet and bought what he needed, but he returned it to the miller.

# Answer Key

## Part A Story Focus

### Before You Read

*(Answers may vary.)*

#### ► Introduction

1. Her real name was Marie Louise de la Ramée.
2. It was not popular in Belgium.
3. They go to Antwerp and look for things mentioned in the story.

#### ► Characters

1. Nello: talented, honest, poor
2. Patrasche: loving, faithful, hairy
3. The Miller: rich, mean, selfish
4. Alois: young, pretty, kind

## **While You Read**

*(Answer may vary.)*

### **► Chapter 1**

#### **A. Preview Questions**

1. It is a windmill.
2. I think they are a farmer and his grandson.
3. He is playing with the dog.

#### **B. Review Questions**

1. They lived in a town near Antwerp, Belgium.
2. He was a milk seller.
3. They often went for days with no food.

### **► Chapter 2**

#### **A. Preview Questions**

1. I think he sells pots and pans.
2. He uses a dog.
3. He is hitting the dog with a whip.

#### **B. Review Questions**

1. He had a very bad master.
2. He used Patrasche to pull a cart full of pots and pans.
3. He threw Patrasche by the side of the road.

### **► Chapter 3**

#### **A. Preview Questions**

1. She is the girl Nello loves.
2. I think he is the girl's father.
3. He likes to draw pictures.

#### **B. Review Questions**

1. The miller's family had more money than any other family.
2. Nello loved art, and he loved Alois.
3. He thought Nello was a good artist, but he did not want him to love his daughter.

## ► Chapter 4

### A. Preview Questions

1. They are in a church.
2. I think it is an art contest.
3. I think his grandfather died.

### B. Review Questions

1. He liked to be near the paintings of Rubens.
2. He hoped to become famous so he could see Alois again.
3. He buried the old man behind their hut.

## ► Chapter 5

### A. Preview Questions

1. They are delivering milk.
2. I think he is pulling the cart because he is cold.
3. I think they are talking about Nello and Patrasche.

### B. Review Questions

1. They were talking about a thief who had taken some wheat from the mill.
2. The miller said that because he didn't like Nello.
3. He kicked Nello out of the hut.

## ► Chapter 6

### A. Preview Questions

1. They are on the road.
2. Patrasche has a wallet in his mouth.
3. I think he will return it to its owner.

### B. Review Questions

1. He was cold because his vest was missing the back.
2. He found the miller's wallet.
3. The wallet had most of his money in it.

## ► Chapter 7

### A. Preview Questions

1. They are going into the forest.
2. I think they will die there because it is too cold.
3. They look very sad.

### B. Review Questions

1. They walked to the church.

2. He began to cry because he did not win the contest.
3. They died in the forest.

### **Mini Quiz**

a. A dog is man's best friend.

→ A dog is the most loyal friend a person can have.

b. The early bird gets the worm.

→ People who start to work early in the day are usually more successful.

c. Put the cart before the horse.

→ Things have a natural or logical order, but some people insist on doing things the wrong way or not in the correct order.



## After you read

*(Answers may vary.)*

### ► Pattern Practice

4. A: I hope you don't take Cindy's side in this.

B: Why not? I don't think it's her fault.

5. A: You always take his side!

B: I do not!

### ► Challenge

1. He would whip the poor dog and hit him with sticks as well.
2. Nello saw a sign for an art contest that would be held the next week.
3. The miller did not like Nello, so he said Nello had taken the wheat.
4. Patrasche picked the wallet up between his teeth.

## **Part B Skill Focus**

### **Vocabulary Preview**

#### **A.**

1. a, e, g

2. b, f, i

#### **B.**

1. sticks      2. artist

3. buried      4. cart

5. crayons      6. frozen

7. secrets

## Reading Comprehension

### ► Beginning: Chapters 1–2

**A.**

1. F   2. T   3. T   4. F   5. T

**B.**

*(Answers may vary.)*

1. He is Patrasche.
2. He is a friend to Nello.
3. He pulls a cart.
4. His first master was bad to him.

**C.**

1. a   2. d   3. a   4. d   5. c   6. c

### ► Middle: Chapters 3–5

**A.**

1. T   2. F   3. F   4. T   5. T

**B.**

1. Nello
2. The Miller
3. Alois
4. Nello

**C.**

1. b   2. c   3. b   4. a   5. c   6. c

### ► End: Chapters 6–7

**A.**

1. T   2. F   3. T   4. F   5. T

**B.**

a → d → c → b

**C.**

1. b   2. d   3. c   4. a   5. c   6. d

## Think and Write

Nello	Both	Miller
sells milk	lives near Antwerp	has a mill
is poor	loves Alois	is rich
has a dog	loses something important	loses some wheat
is an artist		tells a lie

\* Extra: steals wheat

## Vocabulary Review

1. They bought milk from a farmer and took it to town to **sell**.
2. The door and the window of their hut were **broken**.
3. When Patrasche was a puppy, he **had** a very bad master.
4. Patrasche's master kicked him and **beat** him with a whip.
5. Nello drew a picture with some black coal that he **kept** in his pocket.
6. The contest winner would be **Rubens's** student for a year.
7. Nello had to **make** his own crayons.
8. The miller **told** everyone that Nello was a thief.
9. Mr. Veert kicked Nello and Patrasche out **of** their home.
10. They **buried** the boy and the dog in Antwerp.

## Summary

A.

3	4
2	1

B.

*(Answers may vary.)*

1. Nello and his grandfather lived in a small hut with their dog.
2. Someone had taken some wheat that was at the mill.
3. Patrasche picked the wallet up between his teeth.
4. In the forest, Nello and Patrasche were lying together in the snow.

## Book Report

**Story** 1. hut      2. contest      3. thief      4. wallet      5. frozen