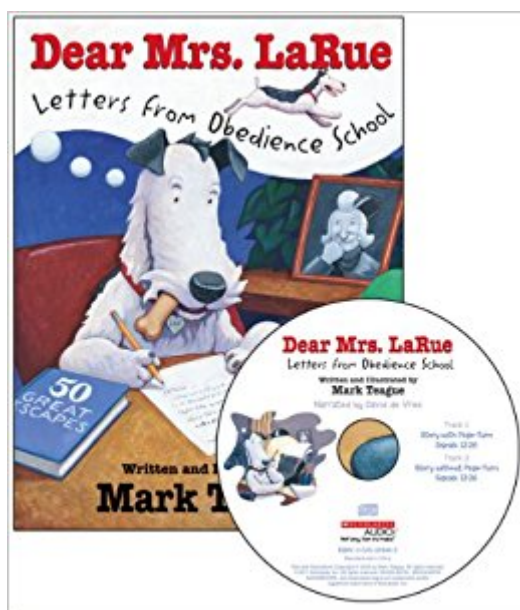


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Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters From Obedience School - Audio (LaRue Books)



Synopsis

A dog laments his fate at obedience school through a series of hilarious letters home. **FORMAT:** Paperback Book & CD **NARRATOR:** TBA When Ike Larue is "imprisoned" at the Igor Brotweiler Canine Academy, he tries everything to get sent home--weepy letters to his owner, even illness. In reality, Brotweiler is more like camp than prison, but still, Ike's not cut out for life without Mrs. LaRue & his creature comforts. Finally, he runs away only to find himself back in Snort City--just in time to save Mrs. LaRue's life.

Book Information

Series: LaRue Books

Audio CD: 1 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Audio Books; Pap/Com edition (May 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545315204

ISBN-13: 978-0545315203

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 8.5 x 15.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 82 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #864,446 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #112 in [Animals & Books > Books on CD > Children's Fiction > Animals](#) #3220 in [Animals & Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs](#) #14815 in [Animals & Books > Children's Books > Humor](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

A clever book for a clever dog, Dear Mrs. LaRue collects a series of guilt-inducing letters sent home by the cat-chasing, chicken-pie-eating Ike to his "cruel" owner Mrs. LaRue, whom he hopes will come to her senses and spring him from obedience school. Desperate to come home, Ike shows great enthusiasm for stretching the truth about his treatment at Brotweiler Canine Academy.

Illustrator and author Mark Teague has developed a hilariously disdainful and dignified voice for the not-very-put-upon Ike, but Teague's most cunning innovation is the book's format: He splits each spread between what's really happening, done in color, and what Ike's imagining and exaggerating to Mrs. LaRue, in big thought bubbles using dramatic black and white. As Ike delivers his first letter, in his thought bubble we see Ike carted away in the Brotweiler Canine Academy paddy wagon ("We

Aim to Tame"!)), up a windy road to a scary-looking quasi-Transylvanian compound, complete with lightning and bats; in full-color reality, Brotweiler looks much more like the UCLA campus in spring bloom, with a sign pointing to the sauna (on the right) and the pool (on the left). Ike's first carefully typed letter pleads, "How could you do this to me? This is a PRISON, not a school! You should see the other dogs. They are BAD DOGS, Mrs. LaRue! I do not fit in." Subsequent letters describe the staff ("The GUARDS here are all caught up in this 'good dog, bad dog' thing"), the "crimes" that landed him there ("I'd like to clear up some misconceptions about the Hibbins' cats. First, they are hardly the little angels Mrs. Hibbins makes them out to be. Second, how should I know what they were doing out on the fire escape in the middle of January? They were being a bit melodramatic, don't you think?"), and his eventual plans for escape ("I'm sorry it has come to this, since I am really a very good dog, but frankly you left me no choice"). Teague drew inspiration from a couple of sneaky dogs in his own life; kids and grownups reading Ike's tall tales might be reminded of loyal and misunderstood pooches of their own. (Ages 4 to 8) --Paul Hughes --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

A dog's life is hardly to be envied if one believes the words of Ike, a rambunctious pooch sentenced to obedience school by his exasperated owner, Mrs. LaRue. Having repeatedly terrorized the neighbors' cats and snatched one snack too many from the kitchen counter, Ike finds himself enrolled at Igor Brotweiler Canine Academy. The hero begins a clever letter-writing campaign to Mrs. LaRue that paints a grim (and hopefully guilt-inducing) picture of his Brotweiler experience. But readers are privy to the hilarious truth. Teague (*How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?*) depicts the pampered pup at the spa-like academy in brightly colored vignettes, juxtaposed with black-and-white prison-like scenes that illustrate Ike's imagined hardship. He composes his correspondence with dramatic flair, whether describing his "inmate" experience ("The guards here are all caught up in this 'good dog, bad dog' thing") or reflecting on his misdeeds back at home ("Were the neighbors really complaining about my howling?... Let's recall that these are the same neighbors who are constantly waking me up in the middle of the afternoon with their loud vacuuming"). Throughout, the devilish laughs are in the details (waiters in white coats serving academy dogs gourmet meals and frozen drinks; Ike's images of a hard life in striped prison garb plus ball-and-chain). Even the duo's reunion (to much fanfare) plays off of an earlier joke. All in all, a tail-wagger of a book that will have readers howling with amusement. Ages 5-8. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This is one of the most Delightful Children stories I've ever read the man must be a genius. Also he must love animals. From beginning to end the story is fabulous and illustrations are just as fabulous I bought it even for adult friends as I've gotten more than one copy and even have one for myself.

The Ike LaRue books are awesome! I'm a fourth grade writing teacher, and I use several, including this one, to teach persuasive writing. Ike (a dog) writes letters to his owner, Mrs. LaRue, and he tries to be ooooooh so persuasive. Really cute book! This particular book in the series is the best one ever for teaching persuasive writing because in this one, Ike is pouring on the persuasion.

In his Detective LaRue books, Mark Teague tells the story from multiple perspectives in both text and pictures. Ike LaRue is the misunderstood dog who is sent to obedience school for bad behavior that he swears he did not do. Was he rescuing the neighbor's cats from the fire escape or scaring them up there? Ike insists it was the former. Is he in a country club like atmosphere (the color pictures) or a jail that resembles a dungeon (the black and white photos)? These books appear to be written for a 6-year-old, but they have word play that even a 10-year-old may not understand. They are highly entertaining for all ages to read and enjoy.

Great way to introduce opinion/persuasive writing to kids.

I adore Ike!!! As a dog trainer that does a 3 Week Boarding School for dogs this book is adorable. I give it to clients with young children at the beginning of the 3 Weeks. It helps many kids get over the separation from their dog as they delve into Ike's adventures. I also send camp letters home to owners from their pups. Everyone enjoys the adventures of Ike and the corresponding letters home. Dogs are such a big part of so many families and Mark Teague has done an excellent job putting those doggie thoughts into a fun book for all. I personally have all of Ike LaRue's adventure books; as my terrier and I do library and school readings to kids.

Adorable book that the whole family loves! We borrowed the series from our school's library, and they were so fun we decided to add them to our bookshelves at home. Great sense of humor, and the illustrations just really make the book!

Best book for teaching of point of view in great condition.

I became familiar with this book not long after it first came out. I know it's supposed to be a children's book but this copy is mine to tickle my funny bone again and to share with my adult friends to encourage them to add this delightful book to their libraries (in the guise of adding for their children/grandchildren!)

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