

Notebook Entry #1: Finding Story Elements in the Blurb

Blurb (Atheneum, 2000):

Marty Preston is exploring the hills behind his family's home when he chances upon a beagle—and that's when the trouble begins.

The dog is thin and skittish, but comes right up to Marty's whistle. He licks Marty's hand and follows him home, and just like that Shiloh has squeezed himself into Marty's heart. But then Marty begins to suspect that Shiloh is being mistreated by his owner, and Marty's dream to keep Shiloh becomes a mission.

What is the right thing to do when a dog is being abused—and belongs to someone else? What about when that someone else owns a gun? These are big questions that Marty finds himself facing, and he soon realizes he faces them alone. But when he puts his courage to the test, he discovers that it is not always easy to separate right from wrong, and that sometimes, all you can do is try to save the ones you love.

Main Character:

Secondary Characters:

Setting (time, place, circumstance):

Problem:

Prediction: