



What if? Naymar and Nicolas

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How to use this activity

This is the story of two puppies, Naymar and Nicolas. One puppy will live with a hunter and one puppy is adopted by a family as a pet. How do you think their lives will be different?

This story includes 'pause points'. Stop at these points in the story and ask children to reflect and respond on the questions below.



1 Why are the puppies happy?



2 Why is Naymar afraid?



3 Why does Nicolas seem happy meeting the new people?



4 What are the differences between Naymar and Nicolas' journeys?



5 How is Naymar feeling when she arrives at her new home?



6 How do you think Nicolas feels when he arrives at his new home?



7 Why do you think the older galgo snapped at Naymar?



8 What are the differences between Naymar and Nicolas' days?



9 How does the description of Naymar's life make you feel?




10 Why has the man abandoned Naymar?

You can explore the difference between the lives of puppies in our 'What if?' classroom presentation, which visually compares the lives of working and pet galgos to demonstrate the stark contrast of their lives. Find this and more resources at www.education.greyhoundsinneed.co.uk/teaching-resources

What if? Neymar and Nicolas

This is the story of Rosa's puppies, Nicolas and Neymar. Rosa's puppies are ready to go to their new homes. One will live their life with a hunter, and the other with a family. How different could their lives be?


Neymar opened her eyes; she was warm and cosy curled up with her mother, brother Nicolas and her sisters. Life was good; they ate until their tummies were full, slept whenever they wanted and then played together until they were too worn out to play anymore. She was happy.


Nicolas opened his eyes; he was so cosy curled up with his sisters and his mother. Neymar, his smallest sister, was lying across him snoring. He licked her face, and she opened one eye to look at him. He was ready to eat and play and then eat some more, and then maybe have another snooze. He was happy.  1

The puppies lived together likes this for several weeks; eating, playing and sleeping together happily, but one day everything changed. Neymar and Nicolas were having fun chasing each other around their pen when some new humans arrived. They were looking at all the puppies, picking them up and inspecting each of them.

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Naymar sat in the corner of the pen; these humans were a bit scary. Suddenly she was grabbed by the scruff of the neck by a man with a gruff voice. He looked at her and nodded. Before she knew what was happening, he carried her away from her mother, Nicolas and all her sisters. Naymar shook with fear – what was happening?  2

Nicolas was excited by all the new people, and he ran up to a young boy who held out his hand. The boy stroked him, so Nicolas jumped up to get closer. 'I want this one, mum!' said the boy, scratching Nicolas under his chin. 'Ooh, that's lovely' thought Nicolas and he snuggled into the boy's arms. He didn't notice that he was being carried away from his mother and sisters, as the boy was rubbing his tummy and speaking to him in a soft, friendly voice.  3


Naymar was put into the back of a truck. It was empty apart from an old torn blanket; it smelt funny. As the truck pulled away, she fell over. She curled up in a tight ball in the corner, trying to ignore the strange loud noises and uncomfortable feeling in her tummy as the truck drove over bumps in the road.

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Nicolas was in heaven. He was curled up in the lap of the boy, riding in a car. The boy was called Tom, the human driving was his mum, and he was going to live with them! Nicolas nuzzled into Tom, and the boy laughed and stroked him. The car was a little bit scary, but Nicolas felt safe and happy with Tom, and he soon fell asleep.  4

Naymar peered out of the back of the truck. It had stopped. There had a been a loud scary bang, and now the strange man was trying to call her out. She shivered and looked around. There was no escape, so she huddled further back into the corner, but the man was still trying to coax her forward. Eventually, he just climbed in the back of the truck and scooped her up roughly.

He carried her through a gate and put her down before striding off. Naymar stood frozen, looking around. She was in a large yard, with several much bigger galgos. She sniffed the ground – she was starving, but there wasn't any food, only a bucket with some dirty water.  5

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Nicolas woke with a start. Tom was very excited as he carried Nicolas from the car towards a house. Inside Tom put him on the floor announcing that this was his new home. Nicolas stood still, looked around and sniffed. Tom was excitedly pointing to a big soft cushion on the floor and had dragged out some toys ('They look like fun', Nicolas thought), but was quickly distracted as Tom called him over to a bowl of food and another of fresh water in a different room. Nicolas was starving, so he gulped down the food and drank the water, before chasing Tom out of the house into a big garden. Then they played chase before crashing out together in the sunshine. 🐾⁶

Naymar was unsure what she should do. It was getting dark and cold, and she felt sad and so lonely. The man had come back and opened the door to a shed. Because she didn't know what else to do, she followed the older galgos in and hid in the corner. The floor was cold and hard, and there were only a few old blankets. She managed to scrunch up the edge of one and curled up tightly. The other galgos were interested in her but were giving her space – how she wished they were her mother, brother and sisters.

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Nicolas was exhausted. He and Tom had played together all afternoon, and now it was getting dark. Tom said it was bedtime and called for Nicolas to follow him. Nicolas was going to sleep with Tom! Tom explained that one day Nicolas would need to sleep on his own bed, but until he had settled in Tom's mum had said that they could sleep together, with his cat! Nicolas had never seen a cat before, but it smelled okay, and Tom told him sternly that he must be gentle. To be honest, the cat was a bit scary, so Nicolas curled up against Tom and closed his eyes. He briefly thought of his galgo family, but Tom stroked him gently, and he fell asleep contentedly.

Naymar woke up several times in the night, afraid of the strange noises and feeling so hungry it hurt. In the morning, the man came, and all the galgos got very excited. He threw some food into their pen. Naymar was frightened but so hungry she ran forward with the other galgos. One of them barked and snapped at her, and she shrank away, but her grumbling stomach made her desperate, and she ran back in to eat as much as she could. 7

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Nicolas yawned and rolling over came face to face with the cat! He yelped and sprang off the bed much to Tom's amusement. 'Come on boy', said Tom 'I bet you're hungry'. Nicolas followed Tom to the kitchen where he filled two bowls with food and another with fresh water and put them on the floor. The cat came dashing in and started eating from one bowl, so Nicolas went to the other one—it was delicious, and he got the whole bowl to himself!


Neymar wasn't sure what to do. All the galgos were being gathered together and put in the back of the truck. She hung back, hiding behind one of the larger black galgos hoping to be left alone. But the man grabbed her and put her in the truck too. She felt sick again, but it was a bit easier with the other galgos there too, and she plucked up the courage to look out and see the world going by.

After a short time, the truck stopped. The man took two of the galgos out of the back. Neymar was left in the truck, but she could still see. Suddenly the galgos were running very, very fast and chasing something. There were lots of men shouting loudly, and Neymar shrank down with fear.

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Nicolas was wearing a bright blue collar and was being held at the end of a lead; he felt very proud. Tom was taking him for a walk around the neighbourhood. There were lots of new smells and sounds which were exciting and a bit scary all at the same time. Nicolas felt okay, though, as he had Tom with him, and it was fun exploring a whole new world.  8


Naymar has been living with the man and the other galgos for nearly a year. She has learned to hunt and chase hare. She has made friends with the other galgos. She is given food and water. If she catches a hare, the man makes a fuss of her, and if she doesn't, he ignores her. Sometimes it's so cold she cannot remember what it feels like to be warm. Life is not as scary as when she arrived, but she has forgotten what it was like to be safe and loved.  9

Nicolas is so happy! On the anniversary of the day he came to live with Tom and his family they had a party. Nicolas got a new coat to wear when it's cold, they had a cake, and everyone made him feel really special. Nicolas loves his life with his family. He goes on long walks and plays in the garden. He has lots of toys, his own super comfy bed and best of all he gets to curl up in front of a warm fire.

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Naymar is five years old. She has had eight litters of puppies, and every single one has been taken away from her. She is tired and unwell. She can no longer hunt hare or have puppies. The man shouts at her a lot, and she is barely getting enough food.

One day the man takes her out in the truck. After a long drive, he stops and gets her out. He leaves her on the side of the road and drives away. Naymar stares after the truck, too tired and weak to follow. Confused and afraid she lies down and curls up into a ball; the man never comes back for her. 10

Nicolas is six years old, and Tom is eighteen. Tom is going to university, which means he's going to be away, but Nicolas is okay because Tom's Mum, Dad and his little sister will look after him. His life will stay the same; rides in the car, long walks, playtime and snoozing by the fire. He knows that tomorrow will be just like today, and that is just fine with him.

Naymar or Nicolas; which life would you choose?