

## Suggested Questions for Discussion

1. What is unconditional love and what are the human perimeters when it comes to a pet? How is unconditional love perceived in Grogan's story of Marley? Do you think you could have provided unconditional love for Marley? Why or why not?

2. The Grogan's decision to purchase a Lab was influenced by "The Far Side" cartoon by Gary Lawson, which depicted "witty, urbane Labs doing and saying the darndest things." What kind of research should be done before acquiring any dog, especially a pure-bred which is so popular and over-bred? Given the lack of information the Grogan's had before picking a Lab, do you think Marley and the Grogan's ended up being a good match?

3. On pages 9 & 10, John talks about Marley's Sire. "Something was crashing through the brush...as it galloped past, not stopping...I detected an odd slightly crazed, yet somehow joyous gaze in his eyes." Given the probability of behavior being inherited, do you think Marley's sire should have been bred? Should breeders only use the best of the breed to make the breed stronger and less susceptible to common ailments of the breed?

4. John and Jennie both had wonderful experiences with dogs as they were growing up—St. Winnie and St. Shaun. As adults, what influenced the couple's desire to bring a puppy into their household? Do you agree with their reasons? Why or why not?

5. John is overjoyed at picking up Marley from the breeder and having a weekend for himself and Marley for uninterrupted male bonding. John says "I never believed a dog could answer to two masters?" What does he mean by this statement? Do you agree or disagree with his statement?

7. On page 179, John references the book *No Bad Dogs* by acclaimed British dog trainer, Barbara Woodhouse. Woodhouse believes that most incorrigible canine behavior is the result of a "befuddled, indecisive, weak-willed human master." Do you agree with her philosophy? Why or why not? Who do you think is the master and who is the beast in the Grogan household?

8. What can we learn from an old dog? Though always playful Marley became "deaf, gray and a bit creaky." What does an aging dog teach us about ourselves and how we live our lives day to day?

9. On page 264, John says "You're going to tell me when it's time right?...I didn't want to make the decision on my own." What decision is John referring to? Do you think our pets let us know when it is time? Do you think pet owners go too far to try and save aging pets?

10. How does this book sum up the phrase "Man's Best Friend?" If you have a dog or were a dog owner at some point, what are your favorite stories and worst nightmares?



**ONE  
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COMMUNITY**



Find out what happens when all of  
Southwestern Indiana Reads

# Marley & Me

by John Grogan

Thursday, November 9, Victory Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

## One Book/One Community Sponsors

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## About the Program

One Book/One Community is a grassroots reading program to develop a community built around the shared experience of people reading and talking about the same book. Bringing people together to discuss ideas in books can play an important role in breaking down barriers between people, cultures, and economic and educational backgrounds.

The Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library is joining with the Evansville media, local schools and universities, book stores, and businesses to promote a culture of reading in the Evansville community.

## What can I do after I've read the book?

- Visit the One Book/One Community website at [www.evpl.org/onebook](http://www.evpl.org/onebook)
- Join a book discussion group.
- Use "Suggested Questions for Discussion" in the back of this booklet.
- Listen to special "One Book/One Community" programming on WNIN FM 88.3.
- Share the book with others.
- Attend the special author event on Thursday, November 9 at 7:30 p.m.

## How can you Participate?

Participation is free and open to the public – everyone is encouraged to join. You can call or stop by any Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library to borrow a copy of *Marley and Me*.

### Participating Libraries & Book Discussion Dates:

Central	200 SE MLK Jr. Blvd. Nov. 6 – 1:00 pm
East	840 E. Chandler Ave. Oct. 17 – 6:30 pm
McCullough	CLOSED For construction
North Park	960 Koehler Dr. Oct. 3 – 6:30 pm
Oaklyn	3001 Oaklyn Dr. Oct. 9 - 6:30 pm
Red Bank	120 S. Red Bank Rd. Sept. 13 – 2:00 pm
Stringtown	2100 Stringtown Rd. Oct. 24 – 6:30 pm
West	2000 W. Franklin St. Oct. 17 - 6:30 pm

Check other area libraries & book stores for dates.

## About *Marley & Me*

John and Jenny were just beginning their life together. They were young and in love, with a perfect little house and not a care in the world. Then they brought home Marley, a wiggly yellow furball of a puppy. Life would never be the same.

Marley quickly grew into a barreling, ninety-seven-pound streamroller of a Labrador retriever, a dog like no other. He crashed through screen doors, gouged through drywall, flung drool on guests, stole women's undergarments, and ate nearly everything he could get his mouth around, including couches and fine jewelry.

And yet Marley's heart was pure. Just as he joyfully refused any limits on his behavior, his love and loyalty were boundless, too. Marley shared the couple's joy at their first pregnancy, and their heartbreak over the miscarriage. He was there when babies finally arrived and when the screams of a seventeen-year-old stabbing victim pierced the night. Marley shut down a public beach and managed to land a role in a feature-length movie, always winning hearts as he made a mess of things.

Is it possible for humans to discover the key to happiness through a bigger-than-life, bad-boy dog? Just ask the Grogans.

- HarperCollins (publisher summary)

## Join Us

John Grogan will come to the Victory Theatre to discuss his book, *Marley & Me*, answer questions, and autograph books on:

Thursday, November 9  
7:30 p.m.

The Victory Theatre  
Admission is free and open to the public.

## About the Author

John Grogan is the Pennsylvania columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer and the former editor in chief of Rodale's Organic Gardening magazine. Previously he worked as a reporter, bureau chief, and columnist at newspapers in Michigan and Florida. His work has won numerous awards, including the National Press Club's Consumer Journalism Award. He lives on a wooded hillside in Pennsylvania with his wife, Jenny, and their three children.

## One Book/One Community Committee

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