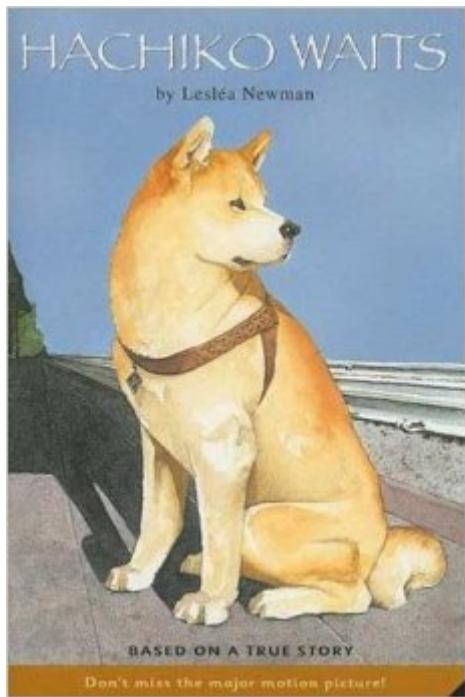


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# Hachiko Waits



## **Synopsis**

"What a good dog you are. What a fine dog you are. Hachi, you are the best dog in all of Japan."

Professor Ueno speaks these words to his faithful dog before boarding the train to work every morning. And every afternoon, just before three o'clock, Hachi is at the train station to greet his beloved master. One day, the train arrives at the station without the professor. Hachi waits. For ten years, Hachi waits for his master to return. Not even Yasuo, the young boy who takes care of Hachi, can persuade him to leave his post. *Hachiko Waits*, a novel inspired by a true story, brings to life the legendary Akita who became a national symbol for loyalty and devotion. This is a must-read for dog lovers of all ages. *Hachiko Waits* is a 2005 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 770L (What's this?)

Paperback: 96 pages

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ISBN-13: 978-0312558062

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.3 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (89 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #48,092 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia #182 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Pets #391 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs

Age Range: 8 - 10 years

Grade Level: 3 - 5

## **Customer Reviews**

There is a statue of a dog in the Shibuya train station in Tokyo. It was first set in place in 1934 to commemorate the loyalty and devotion of an Akita who waited for his master for ten years. The master was a university teacher, who died unexpectedly at work. It was the Akita's habit to wait for his master's return from work then walk home together. Because he could not understand why his master did not return, he faithfully waited until he died in his place at the station, where the statue was erected in his honor. This is the dry version of a true story. "What a good dog you are. What a fine dog you are. Hachi, you are the best dog in Japan." These are the words Professor Ueno

speaks to his Akita everyday at the train station just before he departs for his teaching job at the university. And they are the last words Hachi ever hears the professor say. The dog waits until the station is closed and the train master encourages him to go outside the gate. A little boy whom the professor befriends, Yasuo and his mother take the dog in, but Hachi is one of those rare one-master-only dogs. He escapes. No one knows where he goes during the day or night, but each afternoon at five minutes until three, Hachi reappears to wait until closing. This continues for ten years. Meanwhile, people begin to notice Hachi. They pet him, worry about him, feed him, offer to take him, write newspaper stories about him, come from far and near just to see him. He becomes a symbol of the devoted, loyal dog, man's best friend. Through it all, Hachi remains calm, but most importantly, patient. He waits for his master. Today, Hachi's story is told in Japanese schools all across the country.

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