

Name: _____

Date: _____

Reading Comprehension Worksheets

PICCOLA



By Celia Laighton Thaxter, who was born at Portsmouth, N. H., June 29, 1836. Much of her childhood was passed at White Island, one of the Isles of Shoals, off the coast of New Hampshire. "Among the Isles of Shoals," is her most noted work in prose. She published a volume of poems, many of which are favourites with children. She died in 1894.

Poet

1. Poor, sweet Piccola! Did you hear
What happened to Piccola, children
dear?

'T is seldom Fortune such favor
grants
As fell to this little maid of France.

2. 'T was Christmas time, and her
parents poor
Could hardly drive the wolf from the

door,
Striving with poverty's patient pain
Only to live till summer again.

3. No gift for Piccola! Sad were they
When dawned the morning of
Christmas day!
Their little darling no joy might stir;
St. Nicholas nothing would bring to
her!

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4. But Piccola never doubted at all
That something beautiful must befall
Every child upon Christmas day,
And so she slept till the dawn was
gray.

5. And full of faith, when at last she
woke,
She stole to her shoe as the morning
broke;
Such sounds of gladness filled all the
air,
'T was plain St. Nicholas had been
there.

6. In rushed Piccola, sweet, half wild—
Never was seen such a joyful child—
“See what the good saint brought!”
she cried,
And mother and father must peep
inside.

7. Now such a story I never heard!
There was a little shivering bird!
A sparrow, that in at the window
flew,
Had crept into Piccola's tiny shoe!

8. “How good poor Piccola must have
been!”
She cried, as happy as any queen,
While the starving sparrow she fed
and warmed,
And danced with rapture, she was so
charmed.

9. Children, this story I tell to you
Of Piccola sweet and her bird, is true.
In the far-off land of France, they say,
Still do they live to this very day.

Piccola-word-search [Download](#)

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EXERCISES.—

1. What is meant by the following?

a. “*driving the wolf from the door*”

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b. "as morning broke..."

2. In the third stanza, what does "St." before Nicholas mean?

3. Who is St. Nicholas?

4. Where does Piccola live?

5. Describe Piccola's character?

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6. What did Piccola find in her shoe on Christmas morning?

[illegible]

This image shows a full page of handwriting practice paper. It features five identical sets of horizontal guidelines arranged vertically. Each set includes three lines: a solid top line, a dashed midline, and a solid bottom line, providing a structured space for practicing letter formation and alignment.