

Reading Comprehension Worksheets

MEDDLESOME MATTY

Independent Reading. Read the poem below. Read aloud then answer the questions that follow.

Notes for reading: Preview the text to be read. Before you start reading, ask yourself, what does the poet want me to think or feel? Do I agree with the author? While you read pay close attention to the details presented in the text.



1. Oh, how one ugly trick has spoiled
The sweetest and the best!
Matilda, though a pleasant child,
One grievous fault possessed,
Which, like a cloud before the skies,
Hid all her better qualities.
2. Sometimes, she'd lift the teapot lid
To peep at what was in it;
Or tilt, the kettle, if you did
But turn your back a minute.
In vain you told her not to touch,
Her trick of meddling grew so much.
3. Her grand mamma went out one day,
And, by mistake, she laid
Her spectacles and **snuffbox** gay,
Too near the little maid;
"Ah! Well," thought she, "I'll try
them on,
As soon as grand mamma is gone."
4. Forthwith, she placed upon her nose
The glasses large and wide;
And looking round, as I suppose,
The snuffbox, too, she spied.

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“Oh, what a pretty box is this!
I’ll open it,” said little miss.

5. “I know that grandmamma would
say,

‘Don’t meddle with it, dear;’
But then she’s far enough away,
And no one else is near;
Beside, what can there be amiss
In opening such a box as this?”

6. So, thumb and finger went to work
To move the stubborn lid;
And, presently, a mighty jerk
The mighty mischief did;
For all at once, ah! Woeful case!
The snuff came puffing in her face.

7. Poor eyes, and nose, and mouth, and
chin

A dismal sight presented;
And as the snuff got further in,
Sincerely she repented.
In vain she ran about for ease,
She could do nothing else but sneeze.

8. She dashed the spectacles away,
To wipe her tingling eyes;
And, as in twenty bits they lay,
Her grandmamma she spies.
“Hey, day! And what’s the matter
now?”
Cried grandmamma, with angry
brow.

9. Matilda, smarting with the pain,
And tingling still, and sore,
Made many a promise to refrain
From meddling evermore;
And ‘t is a fact, as I have heard,
She ever since has kept her word.

Questions:

1. In your own words, explain the following lines from stanza one.

Which, like a cloud before the skies | Hid all her better qualities.

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2. What was Matilda's "grievous fault"?

3. What did Matilda do in the poem?

4. How was she punished?

5. How do you know that Matilda kept her promise?

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6. What is a *snuffbox*?

7. When was this poem written?

8. Do you think children today have the same problem like Matilda?

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9. Match the word and meaning.

WORD ELEMENTS

- traits of character.
- at once, spied, saw.
- sad, sorrowfilled
- interfering without right
- wrong, faulty.
- to keep from.
- wrong or faulty.
- smarting
- saw.

○

Tingling	
Woeful,	
Amiss,	
Spy,	
Refrain	
Amiss,	
Forthwith,	
Meddling,	
Qualities,	