



MELINDA'S DIARY

EPISODE 2: 'A pet guinea pig – no thanks!'

Comprehension & literacy activities

A quick comprehension quiz

1. What did Melinda make and buy her Mum for her birthday?
2. What did Eggle give Mum for her birthday and why?
3. What happened to Mr Sleeper's shoes while Myrtle was in the classroom?
4. What did Melinda forget to do, and thought she got away with it?
5. What deal did Eggle come up with when he finally agreed to share Myrtle with his Mum?
6. Why did Myrtle end up in a cardboard box away from Hurtle?
7. Where was Hurtle's new home?
8. Why did Mum end up with scratches on her hand?
9. What was Eggle told would stop his guinea pig fighting with a second guinea pig?
10. What were we asked to imagine Melinda doing?

Word use

Following is a list of words that appear in this issue of Melinda's Diary that could be useful for adding to spelling lists, for dictionary meanings and for placing in alphabetical order. Other uses for the words could include literacy activities such as adding 's', 'ing', 'ed', 'ly', identifying compound words and synonym/antonym exercises, etc.

tomorrow	practice	expensive	bragged
ripping	ridiculous	guinea pig	stationary
thrilled	insisted	embarrassing	concerned
suggesting	reminding	yesterday	scratches
Hurtle	Myrtle	convince	offered
terrific	generously	unbelievable	cardboard
relief	afternoon	notepad	guessed



Lower
Primary



Primary



Middle
Years



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For discussion

1. What do you think about Melinda's decision to make her Mum a card instead of buying one? Which do you think is best, to receive a fancy card that has been bought in a shop or a card hand-made by the person who give it to you? If you think about it, how would each option make you feel?
2. Do you think Mum was right to seem thrilled with Eggle's guinea pig present, even though she knew what he had schemed to do? What other responses could Mum have had to the gift? What would you have done and why?
3. Melinda forgot to do her maths homework and seemed pleased that she had not been found out by the relief teacher. She then chose not to do her homework ready for Mr Sleeper when he returned the next day. What would you have done and why?

Quick comprehension quiz solutions

1. Melinda made a birthday card for her Mum and bought her a fancy pen and notepad.
2. Eggle gave his Mum a guinea pig, named Myrtle, so that he could essentially keep both his pet guinea pigs.
3. Mr Sleeper's shoes had bright yellow paw-prints on them after Myrtle ran through paint and then over his shoes.
4. Melinda forgot to do her maths homework.
5. Sharing responsibilities, Eggle said that he would feed Myrtle and Mum could clean out the cage.
6. Hurtle and Myrtle had another fight and had to be separated.
7. Hurtle found a new home next door with Eggle's friend, Joel.
8. Mum received scratches on her hand while trying to stop Hurtle and Myrtle from fighting.
9. Eggle was told to get a 'lady' guinea pig friend for Myrtle.
10. We are asked to imagine Melinda cleaning out a guinea pig cage.



Lower
Primary



Primary



Middle
Years