



MELINDA'S DIARY

EPISODE 5: 'Making a gift for Nick was a mistake!'

Comprehension & literacy activities

A quick comprehension quiz

1. What was Eggle complaining that he didn't have?
2. What were the first two things that Eggle wanted Melinda to help him make?
3. What did Eggle really have in mind for Nick's harness?
4. What caused Nick to suddenly bolt down the driveway?
5. What were the first two things that happened at the end of the driveway?
6. What happened to Myrtle when the billy cart turned over?
7. What did Melinda think that Myrtle might be if he was recycled?
8. Where was Myrtle found hiding?
9. What did Nick do to contribute to the search for Myrtle?
10. What did Eggle ask Melinda to help him do next weekend?

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.

seriously	business	announced	volunteered
Christmas	harness	promises	actually
accurate	measurements	straight	frantically
continue	tomorrow	amazing	yesterday
driveway	neighbour	passed	slipping
webbing	scurried	unwanted	footpath
household	contributing	recycled	suggestion
oversized	weekend	thrilled	happened

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Lower Primary	Primary	Middle Years



MELINDA'S DIARY

EPISODE 5: 'Making a gift for Nick was a mistake!'

For discussion

1. Melinda had a feeling that helping Eggle make Christmas gifts would be a mistake, so why do you think she offered to help her little brother? What would you have done? Once Melinda knew Eggle had a sneaky plan to meet a need he had now, do you think she made the right decision to carry on with the project? Why or why not?
2. Billy carts aren't very popular today. Why do you think that is? Do you think billy carts should make a comeback? What do you think would be the advantages and disadvantages of you and your friends making and riding in a billy cart today? Ultimately, do you think it would be best to leave the billy cart back in the 1990s (*and before that*)? Why or why not?
3. Dad had placed a large pile of unwanted household items out on the footpath for them to either be reused or recycled. Does this happen in your neighbourhood? What are the advantages and disadvantages of this practise? What else can be done with household items that are no longer wanted?

Quick comprehension quiz solutions

1. Eggle complained that he didn't have any money to buy Christmas gifts.
2. Eggle wanted Melinda to help him make a harness for Nick and a carry case for Myrtle so they could both go with him on his billy cart.
3. Eggle really wanted a harness for Nick so that he could pull the billy cart.
4. Nick suddenly bolted down the driveway because the neighbour's ginger cat passed by the house.
5. Nick made a sharp left turn at the end of the driveway and slipped out of his harness.
6. When the billy cart turned over, Myrtle's cage split open and he scurried into a large pile of unwanted household items that were on the footpath.
7. Melinda thought that Myrtle might be recycled into a floor mat.
8. Myrtle was found hiding in an oversized fruit juice can.
9. Nick sat innocently on the sideline staring at the rubbish as though he was contributing to the search for Myrtle.
10. Eggle asked Melinda to help him make gifts for the rest of the family.

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