



MELINDA'S DIARY

EPISODE 6: 'I can't help being horse crazy!'

Comprehension & literacy activities

A quick comprehension quiz

1. What was the name of the pony that Melinda rode whenever she visited the farm?
2. Why doesn't Melinda's Mum like horses?
3. What do Melinda's parents think her love of horses is all about?
4. What did Eggle use as a pretend horse to ride around the house?
5. Where did Eggle keep his pretend horse?
6. Why did Eggle want people to sit on the floor with their legs straight out in front?
7. Why did Mum think it was a good idea for Eggle to pretend the floor mop was his horse?
8. Why did Eggle dismount the floor mop (*his horse*)?
9. What sport does Melinda enjoy practising and playing with her friend Lisa?
10. What was THE BEST NEWS that Melinda received on Tuesday morning?

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.

beautiful	gorgeous	subject	owning
discussed	advantages	raised	charging
hollering	laundry	cupboard	straight
imagination	continually	galloped	afternoon
dismounted	priority	answered	basketball
apparently	cutest	breakfast	lessons
excellent	confiscated	embarrassing	practice
problem	pretend	hockey	phase



Lower
Primary



Primary



Middle
Years



MELINDA'S DIARY

EPISODE 6: 'I can't help being horse crazy!'

For discussion

1. What might some of the reasons be why Melinda's parents wouldn't want her to own her own horse? After weighing up the advantages and disadvantages, do you think Melinda should give up on owning her own horse? Why or why not?
2. Everyone seemed to show a lot of patience and be really tolerant of Eggle when he decided that the floor mop would make a good horse? How tolerant of his behaviour would you have been and what might you have done about it? Dad ran out of patience when Eggle wacked him in the shins with his pretend horse. Do you think Dad showed enough tolerance in this situation? Why or why not?
3. Melinda is absolutely thrilled to find out that she is starting riding lessons. She seems to have forgotten that she really wanted to own her own horse. Would you have been as thrilled as Melinda was with the alternative of going to riding lessons? Why or why not? Have you ever wanted something really badly but then when a compromise is offered you are just as thrilled? What might those circumstances be?

Quick comprehension quiz solutions

1. Meg was the name of the pony that Melinda rode when she visited the farm.
2. Melinda's Mum doesn't like horses because she thinks they are too big.
3. Melinda's parents think Melinda's love of horses is just a phase she is going through.
4. Eggle used a floor mop as a pretend horse to ride around the house.
5. Eggle kept his pretend horse in its pretend stable, which was the laundry cupboard.
6. Eggle wanted people to sit on the floor with their legs straight out front of them so that he could jump over their legs while riding his 'horse'.
7. Mum thought it was good for Eggle's imagination to pretend the floor mop was his horse.
8. Eggle dismounted his pretend horse (*the floor mop*), when he swung the mop around and wacked his Dad in the shins.
9. Melinda enjoys practising and playing basketball with her friend Lisa.
10. THE BEST NEWS that Melinda received on Tuesday morning was that she was going to be starting riding lessons.



Lower
Primary



Primary



Middle
Years