

# Puddinhead and the Christmas Poem

## By Marilyn Foote



### Reader's Guide

Excellent Resource of Suggested Activities  
For Grades 2 - 5 and the Whole Family

### **Puddinhead and the Christmas Poem - Summary**

Follow Miriam Foote, aka Puddinhead and her siblings to their Grannie's house. They have written a Christmas poem to their parents and relatives after the family Christmas meal. They plan to recite this poem for the evening entertainment. This Christmas, the celebration of Jesus' birth becomes a very special time for Puddinhead.

## Biblical History

The life of Jesus Christ and after His death centered on the areas in the Middle East, North/East Africa, and the Mediterranean. Look up many of the stories on where Jesus and His disciples walked and draw maps showing their pathways.

### Chapter Discussion / Comprehension Questions

#### *Chapter 1 - Grannie, Can You Help?*

1. Where was Puddinhead sitting at Grannie's house?
2. What did she see?
3. What is a pageant?
4. Was this pageant a small program? Why or Why not?
5. Puddinhead was in a profound mood. What do you think caused her to be this way?
6. What was Zirah doing?
7. Does Grannie understand Puddinhead's mood? How?
8. What does Poppie like to do?
9. Describe Puddinhead at the table.
10. How does Grannie help her granddaughters?
11. How does Poppie help his granddaughters?

#### Chapter 2 - Family Christmas Dinner

1. How do you think the grand children are feeling before the performance?
2. What are all the children's names?
3. How were they going to present this poem?
4. What letters did they use to begin each verse?
5. Look at each paragraph. Write, or tell at least 5 details about Jesus' life story that is written in them.

6. How does each song go with the paragraph that follows?
7. What talent does Grannie and Mommy have?
8. What was Puddinhead pondering about throughout the whole story?
9. What did Puddinhead decide to do at the end of the story?

### **Devotional Bible Verse**

The suggested verse could be used as a devotional study and memory verse. Discuss how this verse applies to the story.

... God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be frightened, Mary," the angel told her, "For God has decided to bless you! You will become pregnant and have a son, and you are to name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

Luke 1: 26 - 33 (NIV)

### **Extension Activities Follow-up: Games, Art, and Music Lessons**

1. The Christmas season has many beautiful hymns, and traditional songs that explain the story of Christ. Sing the ones in the story and look up many famous composers who wrote symphonies, IE. Handel with the Christmas themes.
2. Using music as a starter for a story. Many children's songs are excellent sources of characters for a story. IE. Song - The Ants

Are Marching (This song is sung with the melody from, When Johnny Comes Marching Home.) Then, write a story using the characters from a song.

3. In the story Puddinhead, Miriam, her brother, and sisters used to play act stories; everyone had a character. Design a play for your class. Discuss the scenes and types of props you will need. Produce the play and do it for another class.
4. Create a Story Game - The first person starts a story while everyone listens. It has to be a short beginning of a story. The second, third, fourth person and so on continue this story adding their part until it makes its way around the class.
5. Each child picks one part of the story to design a diorama using a small box, or a lid of a box, or construction paper. You have to fold a half inch frame around the construction paper and pinch the four corners so the frame stands out. Write a small paragraph about the diorama scene to mount this under the diorama when it is on display.
6. What kind of activities can a class do together? Plan and design a class activity like a poetry reading to perform. Invite your parents to come in to hear your poems.