



Puddinhead Goes To Church
By Marilyn Foote
Teacher's Guide
Excellent Resource of Suggested Activities
For Grades 2 - 5

Purpose

Puddinhead is an enjoyable story that can be used in a classroom enriching a reading program. This guide will assist a teacher to instruct students as they read the book, *Puddinhead Goes to Church*. It will focus on the in-depth educational wealth it has to offer to students in the elementary grades, 2 – 5.

This guide consists of detailed lesson ideas divided by each chapter along with chapter and pre and post assessments. This unit could be completed in one or more weeks or depending on the ability of the students, the teacher will plan the timing out. This faith based story can be done without the religious elements.

Puddinhead Goes to Church – Summary

Miriam Foote, aka Puddinhead made a very important decision for her life as she told her Grannie at the end of the story, *Puddinhead and the Christmas Poem* that she had accepted the Lord, Jesus Christ in her heart. There is a planning for a baptism, but this day is threatened to not happen because Miriam develops a serious ear infection early that morning. Puddinhead suffers with a high fever that causes her to linger between restful and no restful sleep. She dreams about all her church experiences from the time she was 3 years old to the present of 7 years that influences her to make this decision.

After the baptism, she and her family participate in vacation Bible school program at her church. And the big surprise for her family is baby, Hannah is born.

Suggested Activities:

- ✓ Pre-Test.
- ✓ Vocabulary Practice For Each Chapter.
- ✓ Chapter Discussion / Comprehension Questions.
- ✓ English/Grammar Focus
- ✓ Chapters Review Quiz.
- ✓ Posttest.
- ✓ Devotional Bible Verses For Each Chapter.
- ✓ Extension Activities Follow-up: Games, Art, and Music Lessons.

Puddinhead Goes to Church *Chapter Titles:*

- ✓ Chapter 1 - Sunday Morning.
- ✓ Chapter 2 - The Lord's Church.
- ✓ Chapter 3 – Puddinhead Seeks Jesus.
- ✓ Chapter 4 – Children's Choir.
- ✓ Chapter 5 – Puddinhead's High Fever Continues

- ✓ Chapter 6 – Puddinhead's Baptism.
- ✓ Chapter 7 – Baby Foote Number Six Is Coming.
- ✓ Chapter 8 – Puddinhead Goes to VBS.
- ✓ Devotion Scriptures

Pre-Test

Opening Discussion

This could be done as an open discussion with students, while teacher writes down the student responses or a half sheet of paper with these questions on it for the students to fill out. There should be documentation of a before and after measure of the students' understanding of sequential events.

Questions: Try to answer in complete sentences verbally or written or in picture form.

1. Think of the important steps it takes to brush your teeth.
Draw/Write/Tell me at least 4 steps to complete this task.
2. (Done during and after the story, *Puddinhead Goes to Church* is read.) Map out a sequence of activities Puddinhead was doing in each chapter.

African American History

Rev. Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. was a famous civil rights leader. He was known world-wide and served the world fighting for equal justice no matter what race, ethnic background, and religion you were. He died by an assassin's bullet. Look up the history of Dr. King.

The doctor in this story full name is, Dr. Lydia T. Wright. In Buffalo, NY she was a very important citizen of this city. She was a pediatrician in a joint practice with her husband, Dr. Frank Evans, an obstetrician. She served on the Buffalo Public School Board and there is an elementary school, Pre-K to eighth grade named in her honor. She was a recipient of numerous awards. You can google her name to get more information.

Mr. Ruldolf Laster in the story was actually in real life a member of the Tuskegee Airmen during the World War II. He served in the Air Force. Have the students look up the history of the Tuskegee Airmen and find out how this group contributed in World War II fighting for the United States.

Vocabulary Practice For Each Chapter

Children should study the vocabulary by looking them up in the dictionary, writing them into sentences, using them as spelling words, writing them in

A,B, C, order, writing them into syllables, and using them during the comprehension discussion time after reading the chapter. The teacher should use his or her discretion on how many words are needed for each chapter lesson. The lists can be used partly or completely.

Chapter 1 – Sunday Morning.

Spatter, windowsill, raged, invigorating, waft, gangly, revelation, throbbing, surmises, hymns, pageant, fatigue, slumber, lyrics, strutting, fickle, clenched, thunderous, obedience, banter, capitulated, stance, gesture.

Chapter 2 – The Lord’s Church.

Snuggled, doze, reverie, recommences, ushers, quadruplets, ensemble, inquiries, showstopper, white-laced, handkerchief, hankie, widow, pew, squirmed, , scriptures, qualms, bickering, procession, pulpit, scanned, sanctuary, Ten Commandments, embarrassment, unexplainable.

Chapter 3 – Puddinhead Seeks Jesus.

Moans, mumbling, thermometer, praise, worship, rhythms, congregation, divine, worshippers, spiritual, variation, exclamation, proclaiming, fib, swayed.

Chapter 4 – Children’s Choir.

Pianist, quartet, constraint, pursed, bouquet, cautiously, rehearsal, “tiny mice voices,” rhythm, volume.

Chapter 5 – Puddinhead’s High Fever Continues.

Soaking, 101° F, refocuses, quizzical, preparations, reprieve, renewed, gape, gawked, bounds, determination, askance, wrinkles.

Chapter 6 – Puddinhead’s Baptism.

Vacation Bible School, postpone, baptism, glances, weird, sphere-shaped, slanted, wobbled, commandment, disciples, authority, Holy Spirit, skit, stick printing, outlandish, translate, occasion, momentarily, candidate.

Chapter 7 - Baby Foote Number Six Is Coming.

Timidly, stutters, consideration, factual, missionaries, gospel, “unreached people group”, commitment, “Great Commission (Matthew 28: 18 – 20.),” praise reports, Mission Moments, chimes in, hanky, harmony, applaud, contentment, blurts out, siblings.

Chapter 8 - Puddinhead Goes to VBS.

Garment, outfit, assembles, simultaneously, pedestrians, competition, conversation, newborn, toddler, ruminates, nestles, serene.

Chapter Discussion / Comprehension Questions

Chapter 1 – Sunday Morning.

1. What is Miriam Foote's nickname?
2. Describe what kind of weather and the time of day it is in the beginning of the story.
3. What are two reasons why Puddinhead wakes up from her sleep?
4. What does Puddinhead do often alone?
5. Who else is sick?
6. The story is written in the present and the past. What are you learning about Puddinhead from the text that is written in the present and what are you learning about Puddinhead from the text that is written in the past?
7. What is Puddinhead doing as you read her story from the past?
8. How old was Puddinhead in the story that begins in her past?
9. How many siblings does Puddinhead have? Name them in order from eldest to youngest.
10. What day is it both in the past and the present story segments?
11. Why is Emmanuel a little scared?
12. What did Puddinhead promise to do for her little brother?
12. Who is taking them to church?

Chapter 2 – The Lord's Church.

1. Is Puddinhead awake now?
2. When she falls asleep, what does she start doing again?
3. Is "The Lord's Church," far or near from the Foote family house?
4. Describe the girls' sizes and kind of outfit all the sister's are wearing.
5. How did the ushers tease Jr.?
6. What was the homework in Zirah's Sunday school class?
7. Who did not do it? What did she say to her teacher about the homework? (Fill-n-the blanks) Puddinhead told a _____.
8. What is a widow?
9. Who wanted to be Mrs. Thomas' granddaughter?
10. There were many things happening to Puddinhead while she was in the sanctuary. Make a list of at least 5 things.
11. Who were watching Puddinhead while she was misbehaving?
12. How was Puddinhead changing in her behavior?

Chapter 3 – Puddinhead Seeks Jesus.

1. How is Puddinhead feeling?
2. Is she still dreaming?
3. The change that happened to Puddinhead's behavior in chapter 2, describe how she is in chapter 3.
4. What did Puddinhead pray to God about?
5. Why did Pastor John nod his head in approval towards Puddinhead?
6. What messages did this inner voice in Puddinhead say to her?
7. What are some other words to describe this inner voice in Puddinhead?
8. What do you understand about this inner voice?

Chapter 4 – Children's Choir.

1. Is Puddinhead still dreaming?
2. Is Puddinhead still sick?
3. What did Pastor John suggest to Grannie? Why?
4. Was her prayer answered about her low voice?
5. Did Zirah want to join the choir?
6. How does Puddinhead help her with the singing?
7. Why was Mrs. Nelson against Miriam and Zirah joining the Children of Promise Choir?
8. How did Pastor John help Mrs. Nelson?
9. How did the choir sound before Puddinhead joined it?
10. What did all the Foote sisters do to change the song?
11. Do you think Pastor John was right to allow Puddinhead to join the choir?

Chapter 5 – Puddinhead's High Fever Continues.

1. Is this chapter written about the past or present?
2. Is Puddinhead seriously sick? Of what?
3. Is Mommy sick?
4. What do you think happened to Puddinhead? Is she still sick?
5. What did Puddinhead decide to do?
6. How did her parents react to her decision?
7. Were you ever sick for a short time and got better quickly?

Chapter 6 – Puddinhead's Baptism.

1. Is this chapter written about the past or present?
2. What is a vacation Bible school?

3. The weird sounds from the organ, represents what?
4. Mr. Laster carries a sign with the Bible verse, John 13:34 – 35, NIV. Read it and tell what you think it means.
5. Mr. Laster carries a sign with the Bible verse, Matthew 28: 16 – 20, NIV. Read it and tell what you think it means.
6. What languages use stick letters? Can you copy some out?
7. What does Mr. Laster say to the foreign guests?
8. What is the great decision Puddinhead is making for her life?
9. Is Puddinhead crying because she is sick, or sad, or a deep feeling in her heart?
10. What does it mean to be baptized?
11. Is Grannie happy or sad for Puddinhead?

Chapter 7 - Baby Foote Number Six Is Coming.

1. Puddinhead asks a very important question to Mr. & Mrs. Wallace. What was it? Can you figure out the answer?
2. What is a missionary? Do you know any?
3. Who are unreached people groups (UPG) and where are they at?
4. How did Pastor John offer to help them learn about the UPG's?
5. What is the Great Commission?
6. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace know about Mommy's health condition. Does Puddinhead know what really is going on?
7. What did the Walaces accidentally do?
8. How is the song, "Make New Friends" sung?
9. What was Puddinhead's suggestion about the song?
10. Puddinhead speaks out about dividing the song to include the new baby. Do her siblings know about the baby Mommy is going to have?
11. Why didn't her parents tell the youngest children about the baby?
12. Why did only the older children know?
13. How does Emmanuel feel about the baby?

Chapter 8 - Puddinhead Goes to VBS.

1. Was the vacation Bible school only for children?
2. Everyone was making masks. Why?
3. What was the plan for the final day of VBS?
4. Where were they walking too?
5. What does MLK mean?
6. How was Mommy looking by VBS time?
7. Why were Daddy and Pastor John watching her with concern?
8. How did the Foote family complete the parade?

9. Who was going to be born?
10. How do the women in the church respond to Mommy going to the hospital?
11. Where does Puddinhead sit at the end of the day?
12. List the important moments in her life.
13. What does she pray about?
14. What signs do Puddinhead hear that makes her think God was nearby?

English/Grammar Focus

The lessons in each chapter could easily be repeated in another chapter for more study of a skill. Also, there are numerous English skills used in the story. Feel free to address them in a lesson.

Nouns/Adjectives and Verbs/Adverbs

When you read a passage, you should be able to picture what you are reading

in your head. That is because the words used are very descriptive. A basic noun and verb will have more details when they are enhanced with adjectives and adverbs.

1. First, close your eyes and listen to a reader read chapter one. Then, scan the first chapter and pick out 5 nouns and find the adjective(s) that describe them. Do the same with the verbs. Pick 5 verbs and their adverbs.

Discuss how the adjectives and adverbs help you understand the noun and verb better.

2. Write 5 simple sentences without adjectives and adverbs. Challenge yourself by rewriting these sentences using a variety of adjectives and adverbs. Share with a partner how your sentences change their meanings because you change the adjectives and adverbs.

3. Fold a sheet of plain paper into 4 boxes. Write a sentence four different ways using a mixture of adjectives and adverbs. Draw a picture of each sentence showing the differences because of the varied adjectives and adverbs.

Suffix/prefix – Adding these endings/beginnings to a word changes its meaning.

Add: “ing” or, “ed” or, “ly” or, “est” or, “ ‘s” or, “re”, or, “pre” to a word, etc.

1. Make a 4 column chart like below.

base / root word definition	definition	suffix/prefix	new

Fill-in the chart using the words from any chapter. Discuss with your partner to make these new words what are the varieties of rules that are used. Redo this chart to look for words that have a prefix.

1. What is the difference between adding “s” and adding “ ‘s” to a word? Pick several samples in from any chapter to explore how these words are used. Rewrite your own sentence using your sample to show that you know how to use each word.

2. When someone is talking, the writer uses quotation marks. (“ “) Reread a paragraph and find the quoted sentences. Who is speaking? List the names of the characters who are speaking in each sentence.

3. Contractions and Compound Words – How are they alike and how are they different? Make a four column chart or fold your paper into fours vertically. List the contractions and compound words in any chapter . Separate each word into the two words that makes it. State, if that word is a compound or a contraction.

Make flash cards out of the many words throughout the book that are compound or contraction words. Write a sentence for each word on the lines.

Front of Card

Back of Card

bathroom

bath room

4. Synonym and antonym are words that mean the same (syn.) and opposite (ant.) to each other. Look throughout the whole story and pick out pairs of words that are synonym or antonym to each other. Fold your paper into two columns and pair-up these words. Label each pair with “s” or “a”.

Chapters Review Quiz

Narrative Elements – Complete the narrative elements for the whole story by answering these questions. Answer using complete sentences.

1. What are the:

- ✓ Setting,
- ✓ Characters,
- ✓ Plot,
- ✓ Problems
- ✓ Solutions

to the story?

2. Draw 8 pictures, one for each chapter. Write a summary of each chapter under each picture.

Posttest

Opening Discussion

This could be done as an open discussion with students, while teacher writes down the student responses or a half sheet of paper with these questions on it for the students to fill out. There should be documentation of a before and after measure of the students' understanding of sequential events.

Questions: Try to answer in complete sentences verbally or written or in picture form.

1. Think of the important steps it takes to brush your teeth. Draw/Write/Tell me at least 4 steps to complete this task.
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Devotional Bible Verses For Each Chapter

These suggested verses could be used as a devotional study and memory verses.

Scripture Resource

Great Commission – Jesus came and told His disciples, “I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18 – 20 NIV.

A new commandment I give unto you. That ye love one another; as I loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have loved one to another. John 13:34 – 35 NIV.

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 1Timothy 2:3 – 4 NIV.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23 NIV.

In Him, (Jesus) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. Ephesians 1:7 NIV.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16 NIV.

Not everyone who says to Me, “Lord, Lord,” shall enter the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 7:21 NIV.

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9 NIV.

And, if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. John 14:3 NIV.

You can find more ideas while reading my book series including Resource Guides for all my books on my website:

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

1. Puddinhead Goes to Church recycling bric brac for the children to use in the art projects was done during the VBS time. What can you do to recycle something that can be made useful again? Challenge: Create a Recycling

Club to explore the numerous ways to put unused things back to useful things.

2. Use a giant sheet of drawing paper or a chalkboard and design an adventure. The drawings should be done in sequential order. The story should be written out in a book fashion.

3. Using music as a starter for a story. Many children's song is 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.

4. In the story, Puddinhead and 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.