



Puddinhead's Daddy  
By Marilyn Foote

Teacher's Guide  
Excellent Resource of Suggested Activities  
For Grades 2 – 5

**Purpose**

Puddinhead's Daddy 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. 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 a week or depending on the ability of the students, the teacher will plan the timing. This faith based story can be done with or without the religious elements.

## **Puddinhead's Daddy - Summary**

Follow Miriam Foote, aka Puddinhead and her siblings as they bicycle around the neighborhood, play in the backyard with Daddy, and venture to the luscious farmer's market.

Mommy and Daddy's wedding anniversary is the next day, and Puddinhead can't wait to see them all dressed up and ready for their date. But, will Puddinhead's disastrous attempt to ride an older boy's bicycle leave Daddy to upset for his night? Find out what happens, when you read the story.

### **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's Daddy - Table of Content:**

- ✓ Foreword by the Honorable Arthur O. Eve, Former Deputy Speaker, New York State Assembly.
- ✓ Chapter 1 - Daddy's Early Morning Routines.
- ✓ Chapter 2 - Daddy's Rules.
- ✓ Chapter 3 - Daddy's Secret.
- ✓ Chapter 4 - Daddy's Bicycles.

- ✓ Chapter 5 - Daddy Drives to the Farmer's Market
- ✓ Chapter 6 - Daddy and Mommy's Wedding Anniversary Morning
- ✓ Chapter 7 - Daddy and Mommy's Wedding Anniversary Afternoon
- ✓ Chapter 8 - Daddy and Mommy's Wedding Anniversary Evening
- ✓ Devotion Scriptures

## **Pre-Test**

### Opening Discussion

This could be done as an open discussion with students, while teacher writes down the student responses or given on on a half sheet of paper with these questions for the students to fill out. There should be documentation of a before and after measure of the students' understanding of their own lifestyle to on how Puddinhead's family interacts. This is not a measure to judge or state which way to live is right or wrong.

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

1. What kind of activities can a family do together? Explain.
2. What are some helpful guidelines that help older siblings to get along with the younger ones?
3. Do you feel you can truly share your ideas, time, and toys easily with your family members and friends?
4. How did you feel after you did share something? Explain.
5. How does your personal faith and beliefs help you interact with other people?
6. If you did something wrong, do you know it right away?
7. How and/or who do you look for help to solve your problem?

## **African American History**

The Foreword was written by the Honorable Arthur O. Eve, Former Deputy Speaker, New York State Assembly. Mr. Eve had an outstanding political career. There are other names in the story of well known African Americans. They are Martin L. King Jr. Madam C. J. Walker, and George Washington Carver. Go on-line and goggle their names to see all that they have done.

## **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 with each chapter lesson. The lists can be used partly or completely.

### *Chapter 1 - Daddy's Early Morning Routines*

soothing, horizon, perched, luscious, flourish, screeching, accompanying, outlet, quizzical, exclaimed, creased, confidence, chores, pursed, refocused, affectionately, embraced, cheered, forehead, highchair.

### *Chapter 2 - Daddy's Rules*

whining, occurrence, portion, interrupted, make-shift, timidly, cinnamon, scooped, cabinet, interceded.

### *Chapter 3 - Daddy's Secret*

devotion, announcement, merriment, crisp, ingredients, anticipation, expression, pondering, glance, apologize, overheard, twisted, amusement, commanding, ruin, innocent, except, thoughtful, discussion, occupied.

#### Chapter 4 - Daddy's Bicycles.

unique, comfortable, tassels, clanging, shock absorber, cyclist, simultaneously, trike, tricycle, step-stand, scriptures, Good Samaritan, downstairs, prompts, caravan, ranks, procession, features, kick stand, maneuver, 24 inch tire, 26 inch tire.

#### Chapter 5 - Daddy Drives to the Farmer's Market

footstool, jubilantly, chattering, sergeant, impressed, beckoning, radiance, beamed, high-energy, bronco, rambunctious, siblings, flashback, recollection, naughty.

#### Chapter 6 - Daddy and Mommy's Wedding Anniversary Morning

startled, peering, sprinted, ashamed, snickered, baritone, ballad, gawking, immense, array, apologized, composed, jovial, cumulus, pandemonium, concurrently.

#### Chapter 7 - Daddy and Mommy's Wedding Anniversary Afternoon

vibrated, massive, mane, jig, fatigue, genre, interlocked, converged, unanimous, blurted.

#### Chapter 8 - Daddy and Mommy's Wedding Anniversary Evening

encourage, drizzling, stunning, inquiries, exclusively, windowsill, vantage point, livid, retorted, overheard, weeping, spruced up, inquisitive, daze, instantaneously, escort, shimmer, precious, mesmerized.

## **Chapter Discussion / Comprehension Questions**

### **Chapter 1 - Daddy's Early Morning Routines**

1. Name the different statements that describe what time of the day the story begins with.
2. What did Puddinhead do so that she would not awake - up her family?
3. What kind of relationship do Puddinhead and Daddy have? Explain.
4. Describe Daddy's duties as a Father and provider.

### **Chapter 2 - Daddy's Rules.**

1. What is your opinion about Daddy's rule for eating?
2. What are the things you are grateful for?
3. Should Mommy allow Puddinhead to have a third helping?
4. What are the healthy food choices guidelines the parents are making for their children?

### **Chapter 3 - Daddy's Secret.**

1. What are some signs that the children do and don't get along?
2. How do Leah and Daddy help?
3. What two ways did Puddinhead get to find out about the special day?

4. Why did Leah feel bad after she told her sisters and brother about the special day?

#### Chapter 4 - Daddy's Bicycles.

1. Using the description of each bicycle, can you draw them?
2. Can you retell the story about the Good Samaritan? You have to find it in the Bible.
3. What are some examples of sharing in this chapter?
4. What did Puddinhead do that was very bad? What should she have done?

#### Chapter 5 - Daddy Drives to the Farmer's Market

1. What is the importance of Daddy's newspaper reading activity?
2. What is the importance of Leah and Eve's activity while they were going to the market?
3. Why did Daddy stop his children from just running out of the car and going to the market? Did he need to do this? Explain?
4. From what you have read about Daddy, list a series of descriptive words to describe him and explain why you used them.
5. How is Daddy's conversation with Puddinhead that evening a very important time for a parent and child?

#### Chapter 6 - Daddy and Mommy's Wedding Anniversary Morning

1. How important was it for Puddinhead to help her dad?
2. How is Leah acting like Daddy?

3. This was Daddy and Mommy's special day. What day was it and what does

this day mean to them?

4. How was it special for the children as well?

### Chapter 7 - Daddy and Mommy's Wedding Anniversary Afternoon

1. What does it mean, "Big Band" music?

2. Can you name some of the dances that are done in couples?

3. Puddinhead remembers something from when she was really little.

Can

you remember something that happened when you were very young too?

What was it?

### Chapter 8 - Daddy and Mommy's Wedding Anniversary Evening

1. How would describe the closeness of the neighbors on Ryan Street?

2. Marvin, the young man's arrival to the Foote family's house. What could have happened?

3. How did Daddy handle this angry young man?

4. Does Daddy's actions solving the situation reflect on how our Heavenly

Father interacts with us?

5. Daddy had to pay for the broken light. How did this change Mommy and

Daddy's plans to go out?

## 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.

4. Challenge: Select a paragraph and rewrite it changing some of the adjectives and adverbs to change its meaning.

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. Make as many boxes as words.

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.

1. What is the difference between adding "s, or ies" to a noun and adding " 's, or s' " to a noun? Pick several samples 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 Chapter 4 (also,

look throughout the book) in column 1; labeling each word, "cp" - compound and "ct" - contraction. In columns 2 and 3, separate each word into the two words that makes it. In column 4 write a short sentence for each word.

4. 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

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armchair

arm      chair

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5. 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. Explain 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 in a few complete sentences.

### Posttest

#### Opening Discussion

This could be done as an open discussion with students, while teacher writes down the student responses or given on 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 measures of the students' understanding of the 5 themes.

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

1. What kind of activities can a family do together? Explain.
2. What are some helpful guidelines that help older siblings to get along with the younger ones?
3. Do you feel you can truly share your ideas, time, and toys easily with your family members and friends?
4. How did you feel after you did share something? Explain.

5. How does your personal faith and beliefs help you interact with other people?
6. If you did something wrong, do you know it right away?
7. How and/or who do you look for help to solve your problem?

### Devotional Bible Verses For Each Chapter

These suggested verses could be used as a devotional study and memory verses. Discuss how these verses apply to the story.

Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing un-corructive, gravity, sincerity, sound speech that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed; having no evil thing to say of you.

*Titus 2:6-8*

For whom the Lord loveth, he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

*Proverbs 3:12*

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

*Proverbs 3:13*

And he brought up Hadassah that is Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.

*Esther 2:7*

Wilt thou not from this time cry unto me, my father, thou art the guide of my youth?

*Jeremiah 3:4*

And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

*Matthew 23:9*

If you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not and it shall be given him. But, let him ask in faith nothing wavering.

For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

*James 1:5-*

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

1. Puddinhead's Daddy recycled the old bicycle parts to make a toy for his children. 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. Using music as a starter for a story. Many children's song 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.

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

1. What kind of activities can a family do together? Explain.
2. What are some helpful guidelines that help older siblings to get along with the younger ones?
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**Inside this week:**



On the move... **Page 3**

Show day... **Page 5**

Gala... **Page 6**

## Promoting literacy

Amherst Christian Academy (ACA) recently had the privilege to host Marilyn Foote, a Buffalo Public School teacher and local author promoting literacy in Western New York.

During her visit to ACA, Foote spoke about her recently published children's book, *Puddinhead*.

The book shares stories about the author's life as a child and the lessons she gleaned from the influences of her family and church.

It is promised to be the first in a series of children's books she will have published through Tate Publishing and is already available at Amazon.com

Foote has inspired her students to read as many as 120 books per year, has started a scholarship to recognize and encourage young enthusiastic readers, has had her first book published in record time, and has promoted her book through "book-talks" as time has allowed.

She certainly is an advocate for reading.

The students at ACA readily received not only Foote's talk but also the stories from *Puddinhead*.

They embraced the opportunity to promote literacy in their school by adding her work to the school library and summer reading list.

"If we give our students more opportunity to read and enjoy reading," said Michael Cabán, principal of Amherst Christian Academy, "it's more likely they will become independent, lifelong readers."

*See Book, continued on page 2*



Marilyn Foote poses with students from Amherst Christian Academy.