

11. The Quest for an Ideal Student

WORKSHEET

1

COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Miss Button sat beside the fire in her living room, looking into the flames. But her eyes looked far back into the past as she stood in front of her class, teaching them English. It was Christmas Eve and she had been reading 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. She smiled as she remembered the fun her class had had reading the story and how she had made it into a play for them to enact.

'I wish magic was real!' she sighed, as she got up to have dinner.

There was no party or Christmas tree in her little home, nor were there any presents. But she had bought a new blue ribbon for her cat, Puddy, and a pair of new shoes for herself. Her old shoes had worn out and it would have been dreadful walking through the snow in them.

Dinner was a warm brown loaf with a pot of stew and some peas and mashed potatoes. She made a cup of tea and sat down at her kitchen table. Just then, a knock fell on the door. Surprised, Miss Button looked at the clock. It was eight o'clock. Who would come visiting at this time? But at least she had a visitor on Christmas Eve, she thought, as she went to open the door.

In the starlight outside stood a tall young man, smiling down at little Miss Button. He wore an overcoat, with snow on his shoulders and held a large packet in his hand.

'Miss Button?' he asked. 'May I come in?'

'Er... yes, but do I know you?' she replied, worried about letting in a stranger.

'I'm Adam. Adam Colley,' said the man.

'Adam, Adam.... oh, yes! The one who brought me home when I fell down one day in school and broke my leg!' exclaimed Miss Button. 'Come in, my dear! How could I ever forget you?'

Adam came in and Miss Button went into the kitchen to bring the tea in. Adam followed her and glanced at the dinner on the kitchen table.

'May I have dinner with you?' he asked, and before she could reply, he placed another plate and cup on the table and began unwrapping the packet. Miss Button watched as out came a large plum cake, a roast duck, a pie, cookies, a jar of honey, apples and a bottle of wine. Last was a big packet with a present for her.

'Merry Christmas, Miss Button!' he said, seating her at the table and beginning to serve dinner. He shared out her stew and vegetables and all the goodies he had brought. Miss Button smiled up at him, eyes moist with tears. He had acted the part of Mr Scrooge, the miser, in 'A Christmas Carol!' Magic was real, after all!

–'Magic Was Real' by Devika Kumar



A Answer the following questions.

1. What was Miss Button remembering on Christmas Eve?

2. What was her dinner that day?

3. What did she buy for Puddy and for herself?

4. Who knocked on her door that night?

5. What did Adam bring for Miss Button?

B Give two instances of Adam's kindness.

C Why do you think Miss Button thought magic was real?

GRAMMAR

A Fill the blanks with modals from the box.

can might may could May might

1. I _____ swim across the river when I was young.
2. _____ I please have some more coffee?
3. It _____ rain this afternoon as it is cloudy.
4. _____ I leave the room now?
5. You _____ watch the TV till we return.
6. Miss Hewitt's absence _____ delay the test.

B Change the following into reported speech.

1. He said, 'I am unable to come now because I'm ill.'
2. Ashok asked, 'Is it two o' clock?'
3. The little sparrow told his mother, 'I am ready to fly with you.'
4. The shopkeeper asked Mrs Gupta, 'What can I do for you?'

C The following words can be used as two different parts of speech. Make a pair of sentences with each to show the difference.

1. Fast [Noun and Adverb]: _____

2. Saw [Noun and Verb]: _____

4. Dry [Verb and Adjective]: _____

5. Fly [Noun and Verb]: _____

VOCABULARY AND WRITING

A Complete the words using prefixes from the box.

dis	pro	in	mis	im
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|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. (a) _____arm | (b) _____band | (c) _____believe |
| 2. (a) _____ept | (b) _____escapable | (c) _____firm |
| 3. (a) _____print | (b) _____prove | (c) _____balance |
| 4. (a) _____file | (b) _____claim | (c) _____fess |
| 5. (a) _____take | (b) _____calculate | (c) _____conduct |

B Edit the following passage by adding capital letters and punctuation symbols.

you start on monday with the idea that you are going to enjoy yourself you wave to the boys on the shore light your pipe swagger on the deck as if you were captain cook and christopher columbus rolled into one on tuesday you wish you had not come

C Each of the words below has the letter E missing. Complete the words.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. ___N___RGY | 2. P___RS___V___R___ |
| 3. DRIV___R | 4. F___MAL___ |
| 5. M___MB___R | 6. ___NJOY |