

MOTHER MELANIA'S MONTHLY MISSIVE - August 2023

A not entirely random mix of reflections on life, coloring pages, thoughts about kids' books & updates on Mother Melania's books

Today's Reflection - Often You Just Don't Know

This month's Beatrix Potter book is *The Tale of Mr. Jeremy Fisher*. Mr. Jeremy is a frog who goes fishing for minnows one day for his dinner and in hopes of catching enough to invite his friends, too. His expedition looks like it's going to reach a tragic end, but he survives and manages to provide a different dinner for himself and his friends. And he seems to have sworn off fishing forever.

I am confused though. Was Mr. Jeremy foolish to go fishing (or at least not to be prepared for fish that go frogging!)? Or was he bravely facing danger? Was he prudent to swear off fishing? Or was he being cowardly?

I have no idea, because Potter doesn't tell us. It's a good reminder, because in the real world, no omniscient author is telling us what's in other people's minds. That's lesson #1. Stop assuming we know what people are thinking. Maybe it's none of our business. If it IS our business, maybe we should show them so much love that they're comfortable being honest with us.

One thing we DO know is that Mr. Jeremy was resourceful enough to come up with a Plan B when Plan A failed. Likely enough, he did this because he cared about his friends. That's lesson #2. Judge people's character by what they do, not by what WE think that THEY think!

So, here's what I think about Mr. Jeremy. Whatever his other faults or virtues, I'd be glad to have him as a friend.

Mother Melania's Book Update

I am close to finishing *Quiz Yourself on the Torah* and am on my way with *Quiz Yourself on the Book of Joshua*. I have various other things in the pipeline, but considering my current record, I'll tell you about those later!

Classic Kids' Books: The Tale of Mr. Jeremy Fisher

Mr. Jeremy goes fishing for minnows to provide dinner for himself and his friends. The fishing expedition doesn't end well, but Jeremy survives and makes dinner for his friends. There are a lot of possible lessons, but I just don't know what Beatrix Potter had in mind here. Join us and see what YOU think!

For a free copy of *The Tale of Mr. Jeremy Fisher*, [click here](#).



What's in the Back Pages?

- *Tale of Mr. Jeremy Fisher* worksheets
- Scripture verse coloring page



THE TALE OF MR. JEREMY FISHER - Discussion Questions

- Mr. Jeremy loves getting his feet wet, never gets scolded for it, & never gets a cold. Why?
 - He's a frog, not a human. He's SUPPOSED to get wet
 - You can use this to discuss why some people can do things that other people can't
- Why does Mr. Jeremy go fishing?
 - To get enough minnows for his dinner and perhaps for his friends, too
- What does Mr. Jeremy do when it is raining and he hasn't caught any minnows?
 - He eats lunch and waits for the rain to stop
 - When a water-beetle pulls at one of his toes, he pulls his legs up & keeps eating lunch
- Why does he finally decide to leave the place where he was having lunch?
 - He hears a rustle and a splash
 - He says he TRUSTS it's not a rat, but he moves anyway - probably being cautious
- What happens next?
 - He takes his boat to a new place and goes fishing again
 - He catches little Jack Sharp the stickleback, not a minnow
 - Jack Sharp snaps and pricks at Mr. Jeremy, then flops back into the pond
 - A shoal of other little fish laugh at Mr. Jeremy
 - Mr. Jeremy is disconsolate (very sad) and sucks his sore fingers
- Then something WORSE happens. What is it? How does Mr. Jeremy survive?
 - A big trout swallowed him and dove to the bottom of the pond
 - The trout spit him out because it hated the taste of his macintosh.
 - So, Mr. Jeremy swam with all his might to the side of the pond, then hopped home
- How does Mr. Jeremy react to this adventure that nearly killed him?
 - He is thankful it wasn't a pike
 - He is not upset about losing his rod and basket because he thinks he won't have the nerve to fish again
 - He takes care of his hurt fingers, then makes a nice dinner for himself and his friends with what he already had at home
- Do you think Mr. Jeremy was brave or foolish to go fishing?
 - It's not clear because Potter doesn't tell us about the state of his mind, how dangerous the area was, how well prepared he should have been, etc.
 - one reason not to judge people is that we never know the WHOLE story
- What DO we know about Mr. Jeremy's character?
 - He is remarkably calm and doesn't blame anyone for his problems
 - He's resourceful (he manages to make a nice meal with what he had on hand)
 - He cares about his friends
- Think about some of the things you like most about Mr. Jeremy. How can you be like him?
 - Answers will vary, but you can steer the discussion based on things we learned about Mr. Jeremy's character

THE TALE OF MR. JEREMY FISHER - Vocabulary

Alderman - a person who is elected to help make decisions in a town

Bobbit - a funny way to say 'bob' or to move up and down on water

Disconsolate - extremely sad

Flounder - to move awkwardly, especially side to side

Galoshes (Goloshes) - rubber shoes that keep your feet dry

Kerplop - the sound of something falling and hitting water

Larder - a room where food is stored; a pantry

Macintosh - a kind of waterproof raincoat

Meadow - a field of grass and flowers

Pike - a big fish with sharp teeth

Prick - to make a small hole with a sharp object

Rustle - a soft, swishing sound made by leaves, papers, etc.

Scramble - to climb quickly in a disorganized way

Seize - to grab something, especially if it doesn't belong to you

Shoal - a group of fish swimming together

Sticking Plaster - an old-fashioned kind of band-aid

Stickleback - a small fish with sharp spines on its back

Tackle - tools and equipment used to do something, particularly fishing

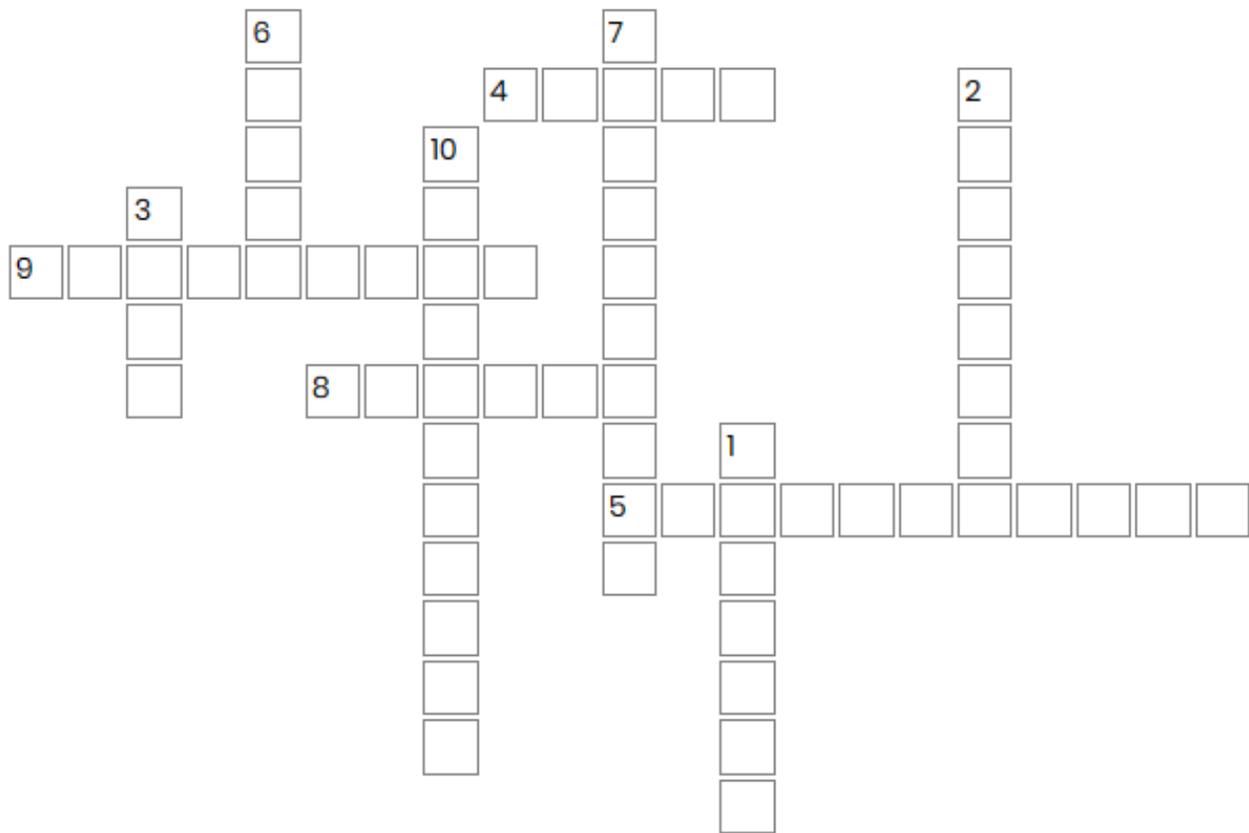
Tatters - worn out, torn up clothes

Trout - a medium-sized fish that is a good swimmer. Many people like to eat trout!

THE TALE OF MR. JEREMY FISHER - Matching

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Alderman | a. Rubber shoes that keep your feet dry |
| 2. Bobbit | b. A soft, swishing sound made by leaves, papers, etc. |
| 3. Disconsolate | c. A person who is elected to help make decisions in a town |
| 4. Flounder | d. A big fish with sharp teeth |
| 5. Galoshes (Goloshes) | e. Extremely sad |
| 6. Kerplop | f. To climb quickly in a disorganized way |
| 7. Larder | g. A kind of waterproof raincoat |
| 8. Macintosh | h. A room where food is stored; a pantry |
| 9. Meadow | i. The sound of something falling and hitting water |
| 10. Pike | j. To grab something, especially if it doesn't belong to you |
| 11. Prick | k. A field of grass and flowers |
| 12. Rustle | l. To move awkwardly, especially side to side |
| 13. Scramble | m. Worn out, torn up clothes |
| 14. Seize | n. To make a small hole with a sharp object |
| 15. Shoal | o. A group of fish swimming together |
| 16. Sticking Plaster | p. A funny way to say 'bob' or to move up and down on water |
| 17. Stickleback | q. Tools and equipment used to do something, particularly fishing |
| 18. Tackle | r. A small fish with sharp spines on its back |
| 19. Tatters | s. An old-fashioned kind of band-aid |
| 20. Trout | t. A medium-sized fish that is a good swimmer |

THE TALE OF MR. JEREMY FISHER - Crossword



Across

- [4] Mr. Jeremy's fishing rod was a tough _____ of grass.
- [5] Mr. Jeremy accidentally caught a _____.
- [8] Mr. Jeremy lost his rod and _____.
- [9] Sr. Isaac Newton wore a black and gold _____.

Down

- [1] Mr. Jeremy went fishing to catch _____ for dinner.
- [2] Mr. Alderman Ptolemy is a _____.
- [3] Mr. Jeremy's boat was made from a _____ leaf.
- [6] A _____ tried to eat Mr. Jeremy.
- [7] The trout did not like the taste of Mr. Jeremy's _____.
- [10] Mr. Jeremy served his friends roasted _____.

THE TALE OF MR. JEREMY FISHER - Word Search



BASKET

FLOAT

ISAAC

LARDER

MACINTOSH

PIKE

RUSTLE

STICKLEBACK

TORTOISE

WAISTCOAT

BUTTERFLY

FROG

JEREMY

LUNCH

MINNOW

PTOLEMY

SHOAL

TACKLE

TROUT

WORM

THE TALE OF MR. JEREMY FISHER

- Coloring Page



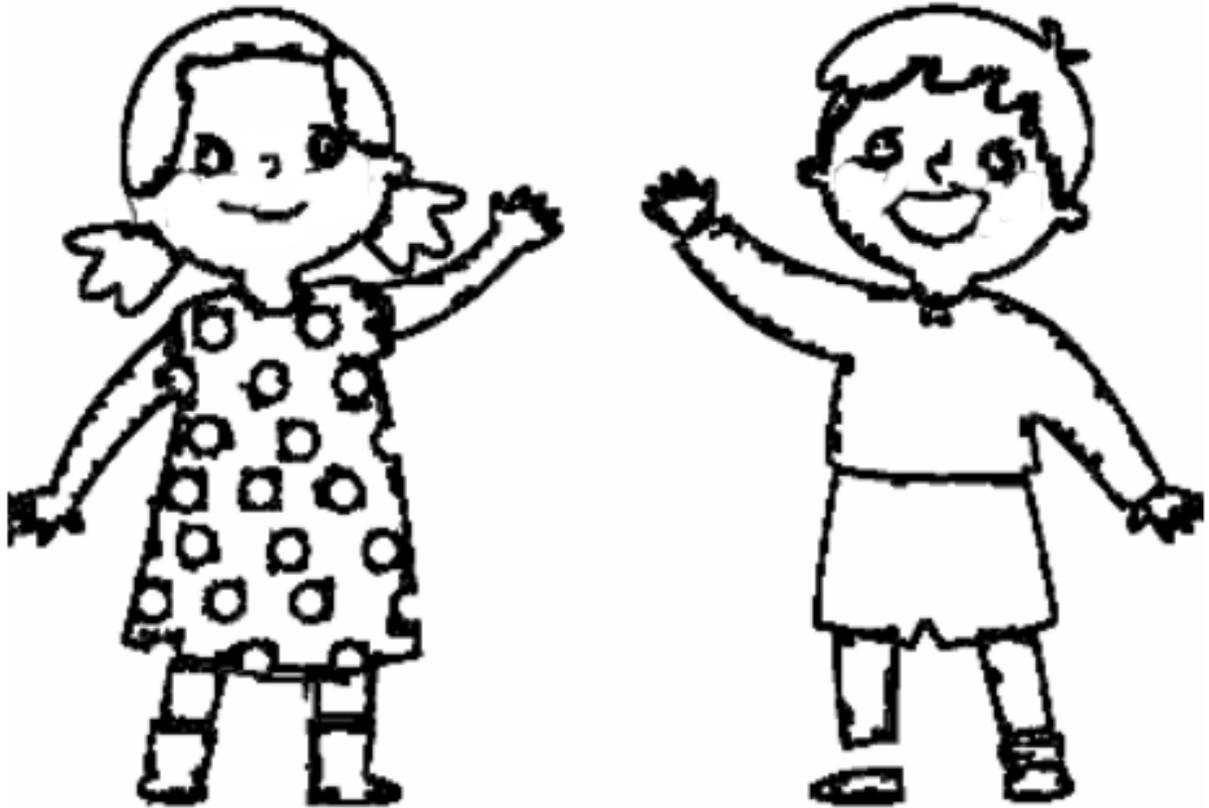
THE TALE OF MR. JEREMY FISHER

- Coloring Page



In everything give thanks;
for this is the will of God in
Christ Jesus for you

1 Thessalonians 5:18



Name 10 things you're thankful for.