

MOTHER MELANIA'S MONTHLY MISSIVE - July 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 - We See What We Expect to See

This month's Beatrix Potter book is *The Tale of the Pie and the Patty-Pan*. Ribby the cat invites Duchess the dog to lunch. Hilarity ensues when Duchess attempts to replace Ribby's dread mouse and bacon pie with her own veal and ham pie. Thinking that she has succeeded, she devours the mouse and bacon pie happily. Then, she becomes ill when she thinks that she has swallowed the patty-pan (a small round pan) that she had used to hold up the top crust in her pie.

The humor with which this is told makes it a little more bearable to look at myself and ask "What have I set my mind against that in fact may be a wonderful gift from God and others?" and "What am I letting myself get sick over that either isn't a big deal or isn't there at all?" If you're anything like me, there is more than one answer to both questions. That's the bad news. The good news is that we have plenty of opportunity to start seeing God's creation the way it really is - and maybe even learn to enjoy mouse pie!

Mother Melania's Book Update

I am still working on the paperback book containing all five quizzes on the books of the Torah. Hopefully, it will be ready next month and, along with it, a quiz on the Book of Joshua. So, stay tuned, and thanks for your patience!

Classic Kids' Books: The Tale of the Pie and the Patty-Pan

This month's featured book is *The Tale of the Pie and the Patty-Pan*. Ribby the Cat invites Duchess the Dog for lunch. Duchess goes to great lengths to avoid eating mouse pie, but as you can imagine, it doesn't go very well. Join us as we read this hilarious tale!

To buy *Beatrix Potter The Complete Tales*, click [here](#). Or, for a free copy of *The Tale of the Pie and the Patty-Pan* only, click [here](#).



What's in the Back Pages?

- *Tale of the Pie and the Patty Pan* worksheets
- Scripture verse coloring page



THE TALE OF THE PIE AND THE PATTY-PAN - Discussion Questions

- When Ribby invited Duchess to tea, what was Duchess hoping Ribby wouldn't serve?
 - Mouse
- What does Duchess do to try to avoid eating mouse?
 - She takes her own veal and ham pie (which was made in the same kind of pie dish that Ribby was using) and puts it in Ribby's oven
- What goes wrong with Duchess' plan?
 - She puts her own pie in the top oven, not realizing Ribby's pie is in the lower oven
 - So, she ends up eating Ribby's mouse and bacon pie, but thinks that it's her OWN pie
- How does Duchess react when she first eats the mouse and bacon pie?
 - She happily eats it because she THINKS it's her veal and ham pie
- Why does Duchess get all upset?
 - She thinks she has eaten the patty pan (a little round pan that SHE put in HER pie to hold up the crust, but Ribby did NOT put in her pie)
 - She starts feeling really sick just because she THOUGHT she swallowed the patty pan
- How does Ribby respond to Duchess thinking she's swallowed a patty pan?
 - She's confused and a bit mad because she knows there wasn't a patty pan in her pie
 - But she sees that Duchess is in distress. So, she goes to get Dr. Maggotty (a magpie)
- While Ribby is away getting Dr. Maggotty, what happens with Duchess?
 - She smells her own pie in the oven and opens the door to see it's still there
 - She realizes that she's been eating mouse and thinks that's why she felt ill
 - She puts her own pie in the backyard so that Ribby won't find out what she did
- What does Dr. Maggotty do? How do Ribby and Duchess respond?
 - He keeps talking about gammon and spinach (which is a phrase that means nonsense) and he tries to give Duchess a bread pill
 - Duchess feels better now that she knows she hasn't eaten the patty pan. She doesn't want to take the bread pill, but gets forced into it, and then feels better
 - Ribby is annoyed with Dr. Maggotty and tells him to go out in the backyard
- What happens from that point on?
 - Duchess tells Ribby she feels better and wants to go home
 - Ribby wants to walk Duchess home, but Duchess says no (because she wants to go fetch her pie, which she left in the backyard)
 - Duchess, finding Dr. Maggotty and three jackdaws eating HER pie, feels silly and leaves
 - Ribby finds the broken pie pan and patty pan and decides to invite Tabitha Twitchit next time she wants to give a party

THE TALE OF THE PIE AND THE PATTY-PAN - Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Dr. Maggotty keeps talking about gammon and spinach?
 - "Gammon and spinach" means nonsense. So, maybe Dr. Maggotty is just being silly.
 - Or maybe he's realizes what Duchess has done and thinks it's really silly
- Why does Duchess feel sick and then feel better?
 - She is so convinced that she ate a patty pan that she felt sick
 - When she realized that she hadn't eaten the patty pan, she felt better
- Why do you think Ribby decides to invite Tabitha Twitchit next time instead of Duchess?
 - Maybe all the chaos of her party with Duchess made her decide not to have her again
 - Maybe when she realized there was a patty pan that wasn't hers, she realized that Duchess had brought her own pie.
- The Golden Rule tells us to do unto others what we would like them to do unto us. Did Ribby and Duchess do that?
 - Ribby SORT OF did. She loved mouse and planned to give the whole pie to Duchess. But she didn't stop to think if Duchess actually LIKED mouse
 - Duchess seems just to be thinking of herself. She brought what SHE liked, and she knew Ribby wasn't going to eat it. So, it was really for herself.
 - So, the Golden Rule means more that we should do for people what THEY like and what is good for THEM, not what WE like.
- How could Duchess have acted better?
 - She could have been honest in a polite way about not wanting to eat mouse
 - She could have declined the invitation politely
 - She could have eaten a small amount to see if maybe she really DID like mouse
 - She shouldn't have tried to trick Ribby
 - After she DID try to trick Ribby, she could have admitted it and asked forgiveness
 - She could have eaten without gulping the food down (if she had done that, she might have realized that she hadn't gulped down a patty pan)
 - She could have tried to stay calm when she thought she ate the patty pan (breathing deeply is a good way to do that)
- Have you ever been dishonest because you wanted to be polite? What could you do instead?
 - Answers will vary, but you can suggest some things based on the above question
- Have you ever been carried away with your fears like Duchess? What can you do instead?
 - Pray to God for help
 - Talk to an adult if you can
 - Take a deep breath before deciding what to do next
 - Maybe do a little bit of the thing you're scared of and see how it goes

THE TALE OF THE PIE AND THE PATTY-PAN - Vocabulary

Aghast - shocked and horrified

Alacrity - eagerness, happy quickness

Dreadful - very bad or unpleasant

Fumbling - clumsily or awkwardly

Gammon - a kind of ham that tastes like bacon; exaggeration

Genteel - having very good manners

Gossip - talk about what other people are doing (almost always in a mean way)

Hearth - the area in front of a fireplace

Hob - a shelf on the side or back of a fireplace

Jackdaw - a mostly black member of the crow family

Magpie - a black and white member of the crow family

Mantelpiece - a shelf on top of a fireplace

Mince - chop into tiny pieces

Ornamental - made to look pretty more than to do something practical

Patty pan - a small round baking pan

Postman - mailman

Punctual - on time

Reflect - to think deeply about

Savoury (Savory) - tasty, but not sweet

Scuffling - moving in a hurried way

Sidele - to move in quiet way to avoid being noticed

Superior - better

Tippet - a long piece of fabric worn around the shoulders

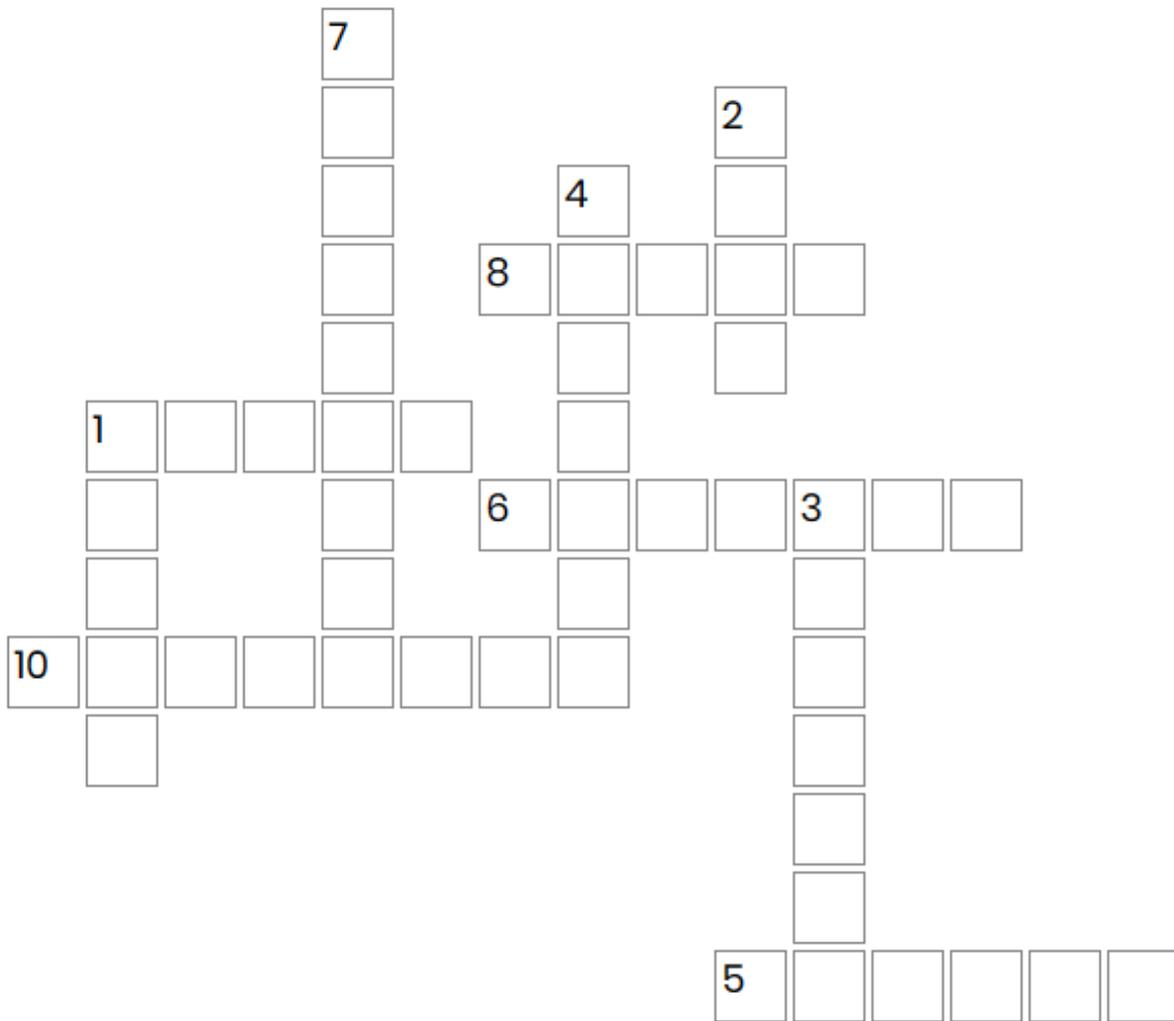
Toothsome - very tasty

Triumphant - very happy about doing something amazing or winning something

THE TALE OF THE PIE AND THE PATTY-PAN - Matching

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Aghast | a. Chop into tiny pieces |
| 2. Alacrity | b. Tasty, but not sweet |
| 3. Dreadful | c. Very bad or unpleasant |
| 4. Fumbling | d. Very happy about doing something amazing or winning something |
| 5. Gammon | e. To move in a quiet way to avoid being noticed |
| 6. Genteel | f. A kind of ham that tastes like bacon; exaggeration |
| 7. Gossip | g. Shocked and horrified |
| 8. Hearth | h. Talk about what other people are doing (in a mean way) |
| 9. Hob | i. A shelf on the side or back of a fireplace |
| 10. Jackdaw | j. Having very good manners |
| 11. Magpie | k. Eagerness, happy quickness |
| 12. Mantelpiece | l. Better |
| 13. Mince | m. A mostly black member of the crow family |
| 14. Ornamental | n. On time |
| 15. Patty pan | o. A small round baking pan |
| 16. Postman | p. Clumsily or awkwardly |
| 17. Punctual | q. The area in front of a fireplace |
| 18. Reflect | r. Mailman |
| 19. Savoury (Savory) | s. A black and white member of the crow family |
| 20. Scuffling | t. Moving in a hurried way |
| 21. Sidle | u. Made to look pretty more than to do something practical |
| 22. Superior | v. To think deeply about |
| 23. Tippet | w. Very tasty |
| 24. Toothsome | x. A long piece of fabric worn around the shoulders |
| 25. Triumphant | y. A shelf on top of a fireplace |

THE TALE OF THE PIE AND THE PATTY-PAN - Crossword



Across

- [1] Ribby made a mouse and _____ pie.
- [5] Dr. Maggotty is a _____.
- [6] Ribby's real name is Mrs. _____.
- [8] Duchess balanced a lump of _____ on her nose.
- [10] The _____ ate the crust from Duchess' pie.

Down

- [1] Dr. Maggotty gave Duchess a _____ pill.
- [2] Duchess made a _____ and ham pie.
- [3] Ribby's cousin is _____ Twitchit.
- [4] Ribby ate _____ instead of pie.
- [7] Duchess thinks that she has _____ the patty pan.

THE TALE OF THE PIE AND THE PATTY-PAN - Word Search



BACON
DOCTOR
FIRE
HAM
JACKDAW
MOUSE
OVEN
SPINACH
SWALLOWED
TWITCHIT

BREAD
DUCHESS
GAMMON
HEARTH
MAGPIE
MUFFIN
RIBBY
SUGAR
TEA
VEAL

THE TALE OF THE PIE AND THE PATTY-PAN - Coloring Page



THE TALE OF THE PIE AND THE PATTY-PAN

- Coloring Page

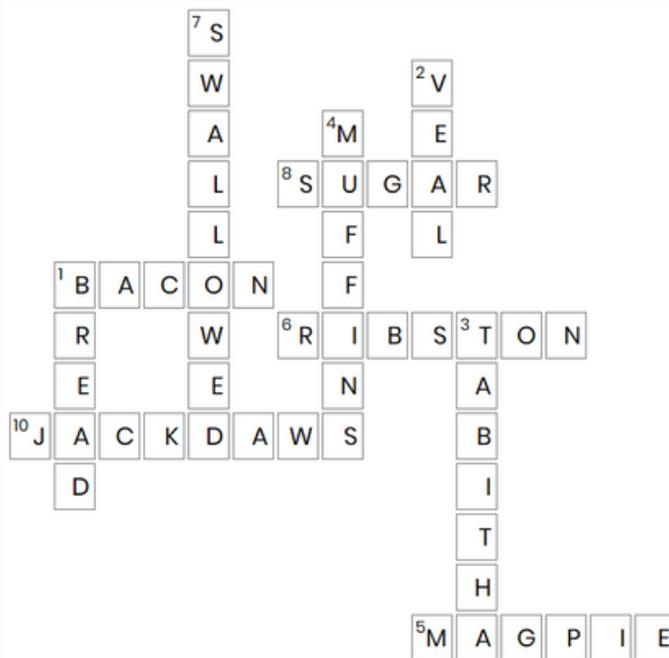


SOLUTIONS - TALE OF THE PIE & THE PATTY PAN

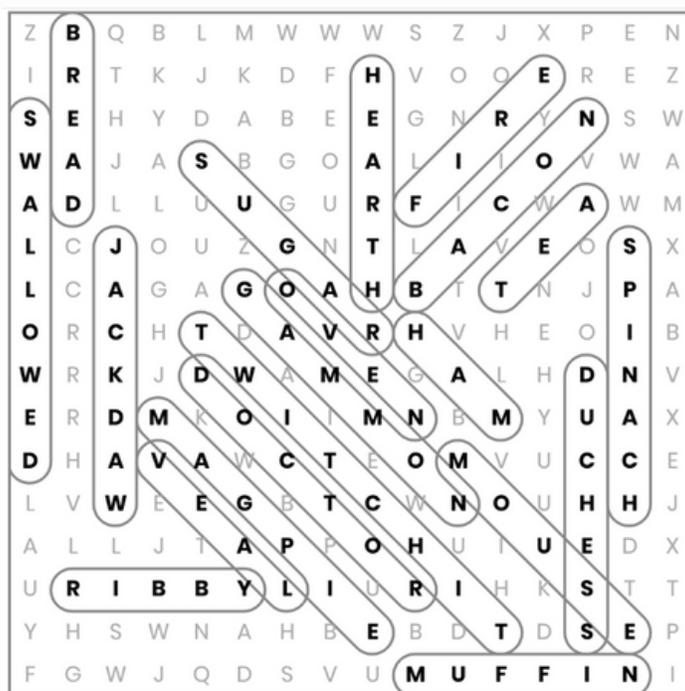
Matching

1-g; 2-k; 3-c; 4-p; 5-f; 6-j; 7-h; 8-q; 9-i; 10-m; 11-s; 12-y; 13-a; 14-u; 15-o;
16-r; 17-n; 18-v; 19-b; 20-t; 21-e; 22-l; 23-x; 24-w; 25-d;

Crossword



Word Search



Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds.

Colossians 3:9



**Have you ever lied to someone?
What can you do to make up for it?**