

MOTHER MELANIA'S MONTHLY MISSIVE - June 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 - The Mystery of the Commonplace

My initial reaction to "The Tale of Mrs. Tiddy-winkle" was "What?" The 'action' consists of Lucie (a young girl) encountering Mrs. Tiggy-winkle (a hedgehog washerwoman); the two of them chatting while Mrs. Tiggy-winkle works; Mrs. Tiggy-winkle sharing tea with Lucie; then the two of them delivering the cleaned and repaired clothing to their animal owners. At the end, Potter suggests that Lucie was dreaming--or maybe not! That's it. No conflict to drive the story. No real story at all. Just ordinary activities, within an extraordinary encounter. What are we to make of this?

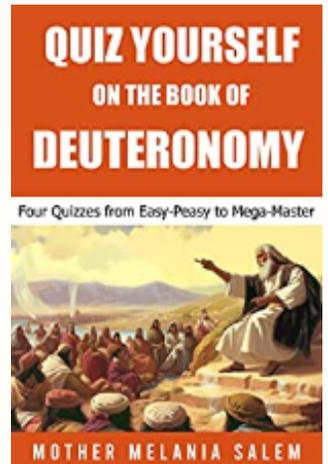
First, this charming little tale reminds us that the extraordinary is present in the most mundane moments. The question is whether we're alive to it or not. Second, one good deed begets another. Lucie repays Mrs. Tiggy-winkle's kindness with kindness of her own.

Maybe the lesson is this. There's no such thing as the MERELY ordinary. The earth is shot through with mystery because of the great mystery of the Incarnation of Christ. He did not erase the ordinary - He transformed it. So, the next time we have an opportunity to be kind, or patient, or any good thing, remember--Heaven is poised to break through to earth, through US! May God give us the eyes to see and the firm intention to do!

Mother Melania's Book Update

Quiz Yourself on the Book of Deuteronomy is now available on [Amazon](#) as a Kindle book for \$0.99. If you could buy one and leave a review, we would greatly appreciate it.

Now that we have done all 5 books of the Pentateuch, we will be releasing them together as a paperback. Check back for updates!



Classic Kids' Books: The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle

This month's featured book is *The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle*. When Lucie goes looking for her lost handkerchiefs, she meets Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle, a hedgehog washerwoman. Nothing much happens, but maybe that's part of the charm of this story. Take a look and see what you think!



To buy *Beatrix Potter The Complete Tales*, click [here](#). Or, for a free copy of *The Tale of Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle* only, click [here](#).

What's in the Back Pages?

- *Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle* worksheets
- Scripture verse coloring page



THE TALE OF MRS. TIGGY-WINKLE - Discussion Questions

- Who are the main characters in the story?
 - Lucie and Mrs. Tiggy-winkle.
- What is Lucie's problem in this story?
 - She has lost her handkins (handkerchiefs) and pinny (pinafore)
- How do the cat, hen, and robin react when Lucie asks if they've seen her handkerchiefs?
 - They basically ignore her
- How does Lucie meet Mrs. Tiggy-winkle?
 - Lucie goes up the hill looking for her handkerchiefs and pinafore
- How did Mrs. Tiggy-winkle treat Lucie differently than the cat, hen, and robin did?
 - She cleaned Lucie's handkerchiefs and pinafore even before she met Lucie
 - She was very kind to Lucie and gave her tea
- What is Mrs. Tiggy-winkle's occupation? How does she spend her time?
 - Mrs. Tiggy-winkle is a washerwoman.
 - She spends her time washing and ironing clothes for the animals in the neighborhood.
- How does Lucie's impression of Mrs. Tiggy-winkle change throughout the story?
 - Lucie is initially curious about Mrs. Tiggy-winkle and her activities.
 - As the story progresses, Lucie grows fond of Mrs. Tiggy-winkle and appreciates her kindness and skill.
- What are some of the ordinary tasks that Lucie and Mrs. Tiggy-winkle engage in?
 - Lucie helps Mrs. Tiggy-winkle to sort clothes, hang them to dry, and fold them.
 - Mrs. Tiggy-winkle washes and irons the clothes.
- How does Lucie respond to Mrs. Tiggy-winkle's kindness?
 - She helps her with the laundry tasks
 - She helps hand out the finished laundry to the various animals
- Which animals mentioned in this book did you meet in Beatrix Potter's other books?
 - Mrs. Rabbit (we know this is Peter's mother because of the smell of onions)
 - Squirrel Nutkin (whose tailcoat has no tail because he lost his tail)
 - Peter Rabbit (whose blue jacket is very shrunk from his escapade in the garden)
 - Benjamin Bunny (who was with Peter when they got their clothes)
- What happens after Lucie and Mrs. Tiggy-winkle finish handing out the laundry?
 - Mrs. Tiggy-winkle (who had become about the same height as Lucie) becomes small again and obviously a hedgehog

THE TALE OF MRS. TIGGY-WINKLE - Discussion Questions

- Did this story really happen?
 - In real life, no
 - In the world of Beatrix Potter, it's not clear
 - maybe it was just a dream
 - maybe Lucie really did meet these talking beasts
 - Potter leaves it unclear, almost certainly on purpose. Perhaps, in order to show that mystery and the ordinary often meet
- What lessons can be learned from the story?
 - Be responsible
 - The story wouldn't have happened if Lucie wasn't careless about losing things
 - Mrs. Tiggy-winkle is very responsible about doing her work
 - Lucie responsibly helped Mrs. Tiggy-winkle
 - Be kind
 - Mrs. Tiggy-winkle did a kind deed for Lucy by cleaning her handkerchiefs and pinafore even before she met her
 - As busy as she was, Mrs. Tiggy-winkle took time to serve Lucie tea
 - The importance of everyday life
 - The little good deeds we do affect a lot of people, whether we know it or not (Lucie's helping Mrs. Tiggy-winkle helped the other animals)
 - You never know what's going to happen in your life, and so it's important to do the right thing whether things are ordinary or become mysterious
- Think of a time when you experienced an ordinary activity in a mysterious or extraordinary way. How did you feel about it? What did you think?
 - Answers vary
- What are some of the everyday opportunities you have to be kind, be responsible, etc.?
 - Answers vary
- Choose at least one kind thing to do every day for at least a week.
 - Talk with your parents about what you would like to do
 - Do it
 - Talk with your parents about how it went

TALE OF MRS. TIGGY-WINKLE - Vocabulary

Acquainted with - knowing somebody

Bob-curtsy - a short curtsy that little girls did

Bracken - a kind of tall fern

Clear starch - a way to make clothes stiff

Clothes horse - a frame for drying clothes outside

Currant - a small, dried fruit like a raisin

Curtsy - a sort of bow that girls and women used to do to greet someone

Damask - a kind of woven fabric

Dicky - a false shirt front you wear to make it look like you're wearing a nice shirt

Door sill - the bottom part of a doorway

Flagged - paved with large, flat stones

Goffer - to crimp the edges of a fabric (crimp is to bend or fold)

Handkin - handkerchief

Moleskin - a strong, thick cotton fabric

Obliged - morally bound to do something; grateful

Pinny - pinafore (a sleeveless garment used as an apron)

Plait - to braid

Singe - to burn a little bit (like with an iron)

Singey - smelling like something has been singed

Stile - a ladder or stairs you use to climb a wall or fence

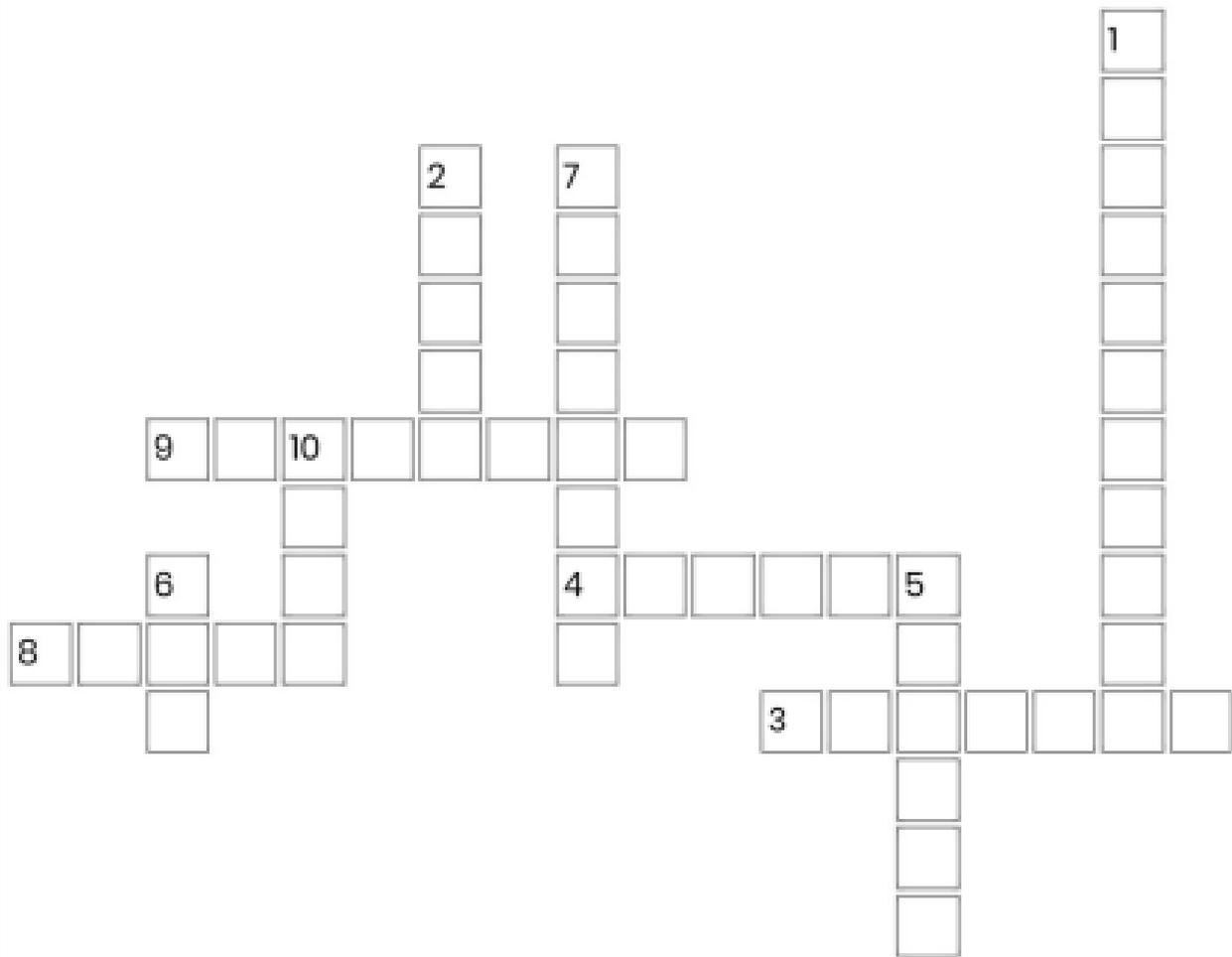
Stout - sturdy or strong; fat

Turf - grass; a piece of soil held together by grass and its roots

TALE OF MRS. TIGGY-WINKLE- Matching

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Acquainted with | a. To braid |
| 2. Bob-curtsy | b. A frame for drying clothes outside |
| 3. Bracken | c. Sturdy or strong; fat |
| 4. Clear starch | d. A short curtsy that little girls did |
| 5. Clothes horse | e. A small, dried fruit like a raisin |
| 6. Currant | f. Paved with large, flat stones |
| 7. Curtsy | g. To burn a little bit (like with an iron) |
| 8. Damask | h. A ladder or stairs you use to climb a wall or fence |
| 9. Dicky | i. Knowing somebody |
| 10. Door sill | j. Grass; a piece of soil held together by grass and its roots |
| 11. Flagged | k. To crimp the edges of a fabric (crimp is to bend or fold) |
| 12. Goffer | l. Handkerchief |
| 13. Handkin | m. A kind of woven fabric |
| 14. Moleskin | n. Morally bound to do something; grateful |
| 15. Obliged | o. Smelling like something has been singed |
| 16. Pinny | p. A false shirt front you wear to make it look like you're wearing a nice shirt |
| 17. Plait | q. The bottom part of a doorway |
| 18. Singe | r. A sort of bow that girls and women used to do to greet someone |
| 19. Singey | s. A kind of tall fern |
| 20. Stile | t. A strong, thick cotton fabric |
| 21. Stout | u. To make clothes stiff |
| 22. Turf | v. Sleeveless garment used as an apron |

TALE OF MRS. TIGGY-WINKLE - Crossword



Across

- [3] Jenny Wren's tablecloth was stained with _____ wine.
- [4] Mrs. Rabbit's handkerchief smelled of _____.
- [8] Lucie's meeting with Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle may have been a _____.
- [9] Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle ironed and _____ Lucie's pinafore.

Down

- [1] Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle is a _____.
- [2] _____ went up the hill looking for her handkerchiefs.
- [5] Peter Rabbit's blue jacket was _____.
- [6] Mrs. Tiggy-winkle made _____ for herself and Lucie.
- [7] At the end of the story, Lucie realizes Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle is a _____.
- [10] Lucie lived at a _____ called Little-town.

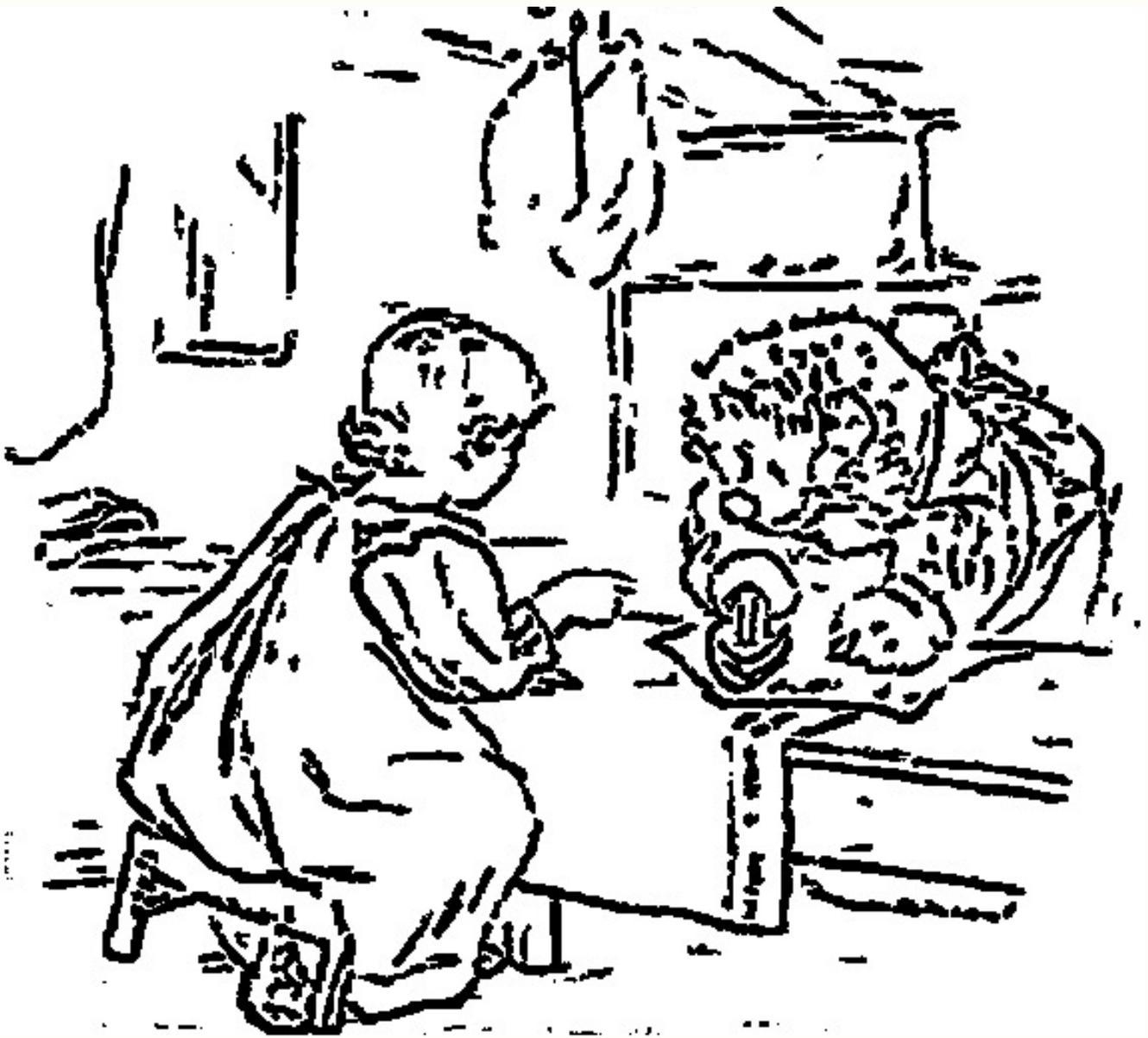
TALE OF MRS. TIGGY-WINKLE - Word Search



BENJAMIN
DAMASK
HEDGEHOG
HILL
KITCHEN
LUCIE
PINAFORE
RABBIT
SHEEP
TEA

CAT
HANDKERCHIEF
HEN
IRON
LAUNDRY
PETER
PRICKLES
ROBIN
STILE
WASHERWOMAN

TALE OF MRS. TIGGY-WINKLE - Coloring Page



TALE OF MRS. TIGGY-WINKLE - Coloring Page

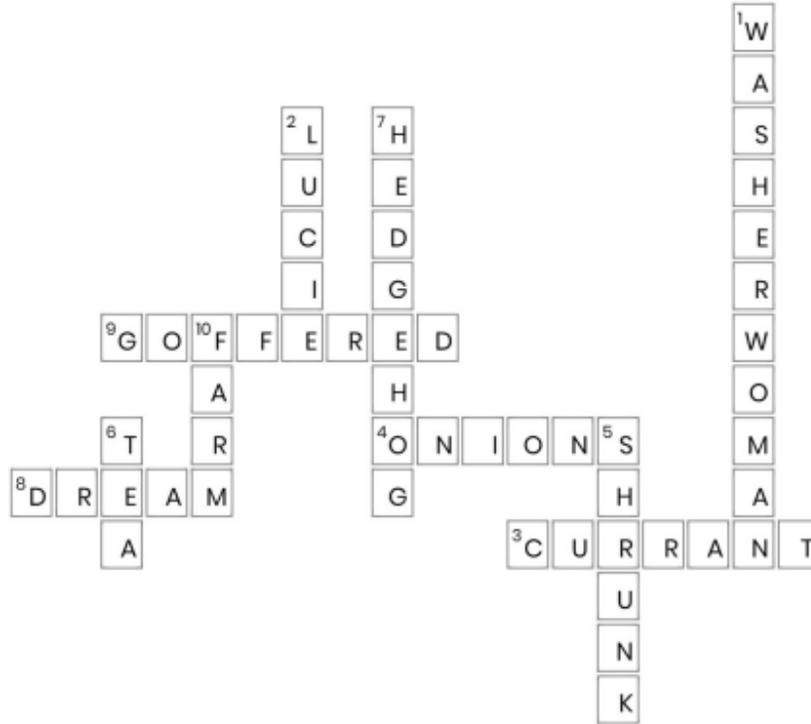


SOLUTIONS - TALE OF MRS. TIGGY-WINKLE

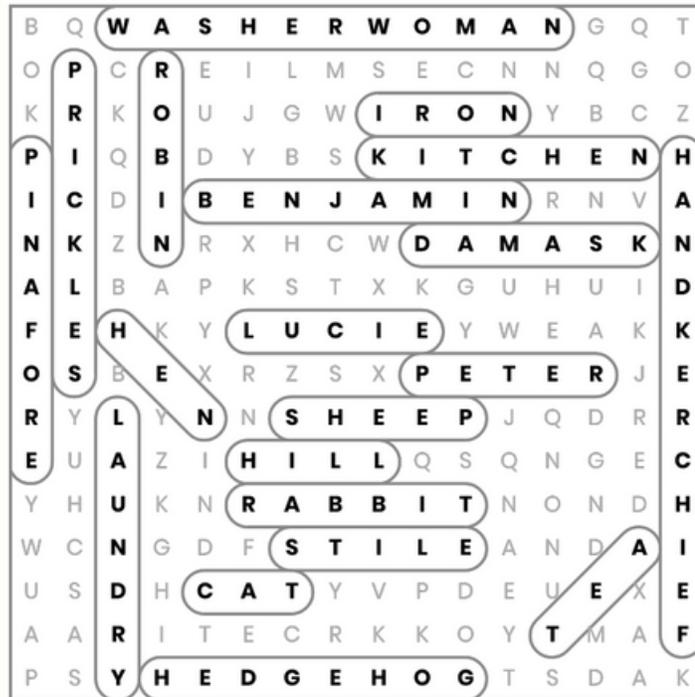
Matching

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

Crossword



Word Search



Therefore, whatever you want
men to do to you, do also to them,
for this is the Law and the Prophets

Matthew 7:12



**Is there something you wish people would do for you?
Is there a way you can do that for somebody else?**