

# MOTHER MELANIA'S MONTHLY MISSIVE - April 2024

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

## Today's Reflection - Be a Good Neighbor

The title character in *The Tale of Mrs. Tittlemouse* spends most of the story trying to keep her house clean while complaining about the many rude, uninvited guests (mostly of the creepy crawly sort) she keeps discovering. She manages to rid herself of most of her unwanted guests with the help of the biggest, wettest of them all - the toad Mr. Jackson (let's just say that toads are well equipped to get rid of unwanted creepy crawlies!). The book ends with Mrs. Tittlemouse hosting a lovely party in her spic-and-span house, while serving honey dew through the purposely narrowed window to Mr. Jackson.

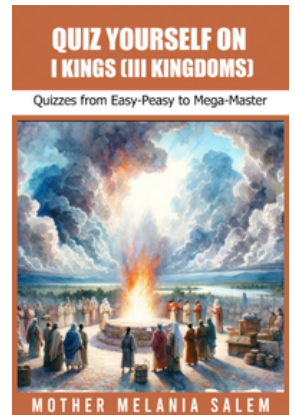
Mrs. Tittlemouse at the beginning of the story rather reminds me of myself. I want to be hospitable, but I am also capable of keeping up quite a stream of grumbling! Our culture's solution to this is to set our boundaries and abide by them. And while there is sense to that, often we miss the opportunity to look inside ourselves to see what is really going on. For myself, it's basically that I just want people to think I'm a considerably more loving person than I am. So, I've had to learn over the years to say no when I'm just too stressed to say yes in a charitable way.

But that's not the end of the story, because I still have to deal with the things inside me that are not about loving God and loving neighbor. If I am willing to face the deeply unpleasant truths about myself that lurk beneath my kindly (usually kindly, anyway!) surface, I may eventually come to the point where I am so full of the love of God that I can say yes or no to a person's requests not out of concern for my own boundaries, but out of concern for somebody else that Christ died for.

I'm not expecting to get there today or next week or next month - but it's certainly the best direction I know to go!

## Mother Melania's Book Update

I Kings (III Kingdoms) is available as a Kindle book through the end of April for \$0.99 or as a printed booklet from the monastery for \$2.99. I seem to be on a roll with the Bible quizzes (though pride does go before a fall!), and I'm even hoping to get back to some of my other projects before I turn 100! Stay tuned to see how I do!



## Classic Kids' Books: The Tale of Mrs. Tittlemouse

Thomasina Tittlemouse is 'a most terribly tidy particular little mouse.' Much to her chagrin, she is beset by a houseful of unvited and decidedly NOT tidy guests. How does she rid herself of them? Is her house ever clean again? Join us and find out!



For a free copy of *The Tale of Mrs. Tittlemouse*, click [here](#)

## What's in the Back Pages?

- *Tale of Mrs. Tittlemouse* worksheets
- Scripture verse coloring page



## THE TALE OF MRS. TITTMOUSE - Discussion Questions

- Which characters have appeared in previous books? How are they the same or different?
  - Mrs. Tittlemouse was in *The Flopsy Bunnies*
  - Answers will vary, but to me, she seems kinder in *The Flopsy Bunnies* than in this book. But maybe that's just because she's in a different situation
  - In this book, she is largely "a most terribly tidy particular little mouse, always sweeping and dusting the soft sandy floors" and she seems to be crosser over animals messing up her house than the fact that they come without her permission
- Where did Mrs. Tittlemouse live? What was her house like?
  - In a bank under a hedge
  - Lots of sandy passages and tunnels, lots of storerooms for seeds and nuts
- What kinds of animals come into her house? Why is she upset with them?
  - Insects (a beetle, a lady bug (lady bird), and some bumblebees) and spiders and a toad
  - They come without asking her permission and they mess up her house
- What does she want somebody to do with the bumblebees? Why? Why doesn't she want Mr. Jackson to do it?
  - Get rid of them
  - They have made a nest in her acorn storage room without permission
  - Mr Jackson never wipes his feet
- Why does Mr Jackson show up at Mrs Tittlemouse's house?
  - He smelled honey
- How does Mrs Tittlemouse feel at first about Mr Jackson's visit? Why?
  - She's not happy
  - He came in without being asked
  - He is dripping water all over her house
- What does Mr Jackson do that does make Mrs Tittlemouse happy?
  - He eats or scares away the butterflies, bumblebees, and other insects
- What does Mrs Tittlemouse do to her door after Mr Jackson leaves? Why?
  - She uses sticks to make it too small for Mr Jackson
  - She doesn't want him messing up her house
- What happens then?
  - Mrs Tittlemouse spends a fortnight (two weeks) getting her house clean again
  - Then she invites 5 mice over for a party
  - Mr Jackson smells the party (the food, I assume) but can't get in the door anymore
  - The mice give him honey-dew through the window

## **THE TALE OF MRS. TITTMOUSE - Discussion Questions (continued)**

- How does Mr Jackson react to being unable to get into Mrs Tittlemouse's house?
  - He doesn't get upset
  - Rather, he's happy that the mice are giving him food and says "Your very good health, Mrs Tittlemouse."
- Why do you think Mrs Tittlemouse was willing to give Mr Jackson food, but not let him into her house?
  - He helped get rid of the insects that kept coming into her house uninvited, so she probably appreciated him for that
  - But he messed up her house, so she didn't want him to come in
- Why do you think Mr Jackson wasn't upset that he couldn't come into Mrs Tittlemouse's house anymore?
  - She still gave him food, which was what he mostly wanted
  - That could seem pretty selfish, but he does seem truly thankful to Mrs Tittlemouse
- Do you think Mrs Tittlemouse could have handled the situation better?
  - She could have talked to Mr Jackson instead of just making her door smaller
- Have you ever felt that somebody was taking advantage of you? What did you do? What could you have done better?
  - Answers will vary
  - Maybe you can talk to the person and let them know what the problem is and come up with a compromise that helps you both
  - Talk to your parents about the best way to handle it
- What were your favorite pictures? Why?
  - Answers will vary

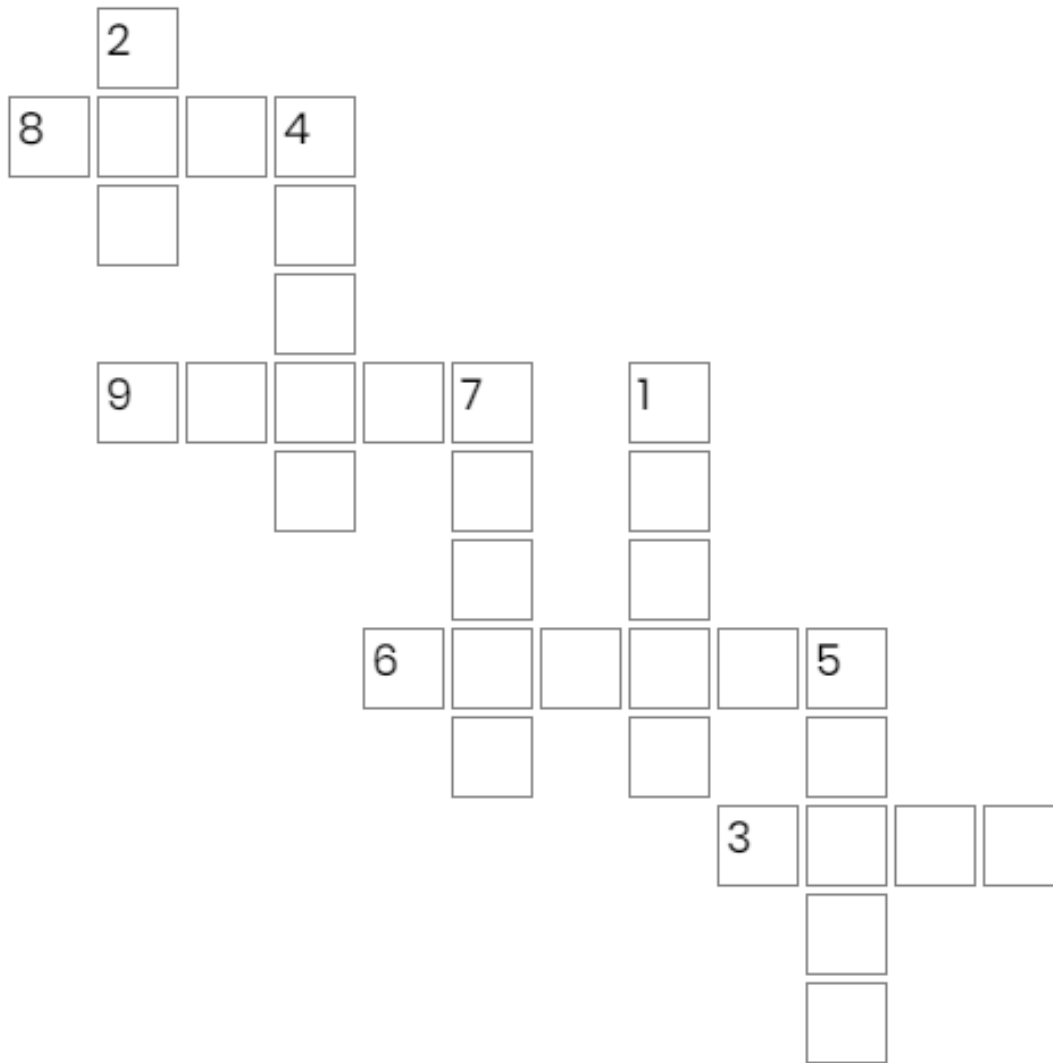
## **THE TALE OF MRS. TITTMOUSE - Vocabulary**

- 1. Bristles: Short, stiff hairs**
- 2. Convince: To get someone to believe you**
- 3. Cowslip: Yellow wildflower**
- 4. Creepy-crawly: Small, scary bug**
- 5. Cross: Feeling angry**
- 6. Distant: Far away**
- 7. Distracted: Not paying attention**
- 8. Fetch: To go get something**
- 9. Fortnight: Two weeks long**
- 10. Intrusion: Coming in without permission**
- 11. Larder: Food storage room**
- 12. Let: To rent out a place**
- 13. Lodgings: Temporary living place**
- 14. Moss: Soft, green plant**
- 15. Objection: Disagreement**
- 16. Offended: Feeling hurt**
- 17. Polish: To make shiny by rubbing**
- 18. Ponderously: Slowly and heavily**
- 19. Severe: Very strict or harsh**
- 20. Smear: Sticky spread mark**
- 21. Thistle-down: Fluffy part of thistle**
- 22. Tidy: Clean and organized**
- 23. Twiddle: To spin your fingers**
- 24. Unnecessary: Not needed**
- 25. Venture: To try something new or risky**

## **THE TALE OF MRS. TITTMOUSE - Matching**

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 1. Bristles      | a. Feeling angry                          |
| 2. Convince      | b. Food storage room                      |
| 3. Cowslip       | c. Slowly and heavily                     |
| 4. Creepy-crawly | d. Short, stiff hairs                     |
| 5. Cross         | e. Sticky spread mark                     |
| 6. Distant       | f. To spin your fingers around each other |
| 7. Distracted    | g. To try something new or risky          |
| 8. Fetch         | h. Not paying attention                   |
| 9. Fortnight     | i. Far away                               |
| 10. Intrusion    | j. Very strict or harsh                   |
| 11. Larder       | k. Small, scary bug                       |
| 12. Let          | l. Clean and organized                    |
| 13. Lodgings     | m. Not needed                             |
| 14. Moss         | n. Coming in without permission           |
| 15. Objection    | o. Temporary living place                 |
| 16. Offended     | p. Fluffy part of thistle                 |
| 17. Polish       | q. To get someone to believe you          |
| 18. Ponderously  | r. Feeling hurt                           |
| 19. Severe       | s. To rent out a place                    |
| 20. Smear        | t. Yellow wildflower                      |
| 21. Thistle-down | u. To go get something                    |
| 22. Tidy         | w. To make shiny by rubbing               |
| 23. Twiddle      | x. Two weeks                              |
| 24. Unnecessary  | v. Soft, green plant                      |
| 25. Venture      | y. Disagreement                           |

# THE TALE OF MRS. TITTEMOUSE - Crossword



## Across

**[3]** Mrs Tittlemouse's acorn storeroom was full of \_\_\_\_\_.

**[6]** Mr Jackson \_\_\_\_\_ a creepy-crawly.

**[8]** Babbity Bumble-bee called Mr Jackson a nasty old \_\_\_\_\_.

**[9]** Mrs Tittlemouse used \_\_\_\_\_ to make her door too small for Mr Jackson.

## Down

**[1]** Mrs Tittlemouse lived in a bank under a \_\_\_\_\_.

**[2]** Mrs Tittlemouse slept in a little \_\_\_\_\_ bed.

**[4]** Mr Jackson lived in a \_\_\_\_\_.

**[5]** Mr Jackson did not have a \_\_\_\_\_ in his mouth.

**[7]** Miss Butterfly was tasting the \_\_\_\_\_.

## THE TALE OF MRS. TITTMOUSE - Word Search



Babbity

Bank

Beeswax

Bumblebee

Cowslip

Cupboard

Door

Footmark

Hedge

Honey

Intrusion

Invitation

Jackson

Mouse

Passage

Roots

Spider

Thomasina

Toad

Twigs

## THE TALE OF MRS. TITTLEMOUSE - Scramble

NKAB

--	--	--	--

BASWEEX

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

BEBMEBLUE

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CISOWLP

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CBORUPAD

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

DHEEG

--	--	--	--	--

NYEOH

--	--	--	--	--

ITRSNIOUN

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

USEMO

--	--	--	--	--

PASAGSE

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

TSMHNIAOA

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

DATO

--	--	--	--



# THE TALE OF MRS. TITTMOUSE - Maze

Help Mr Jackson drive away Miss Butterfly



# **THE TALE OF MRS. TITTMOUSE**

## **- Coloring Page**



# **THE TALE OF MRS. TITTMOUSE**

## **- Coloring Page**

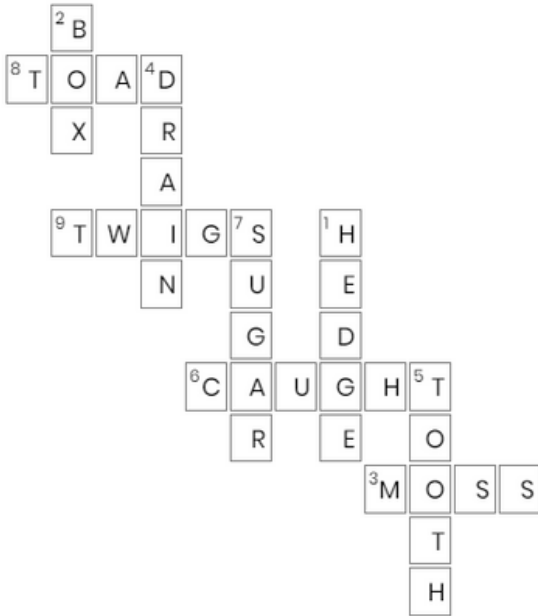


# SOLUTIONS - THE TALE OF MRS. TITTMOUSE

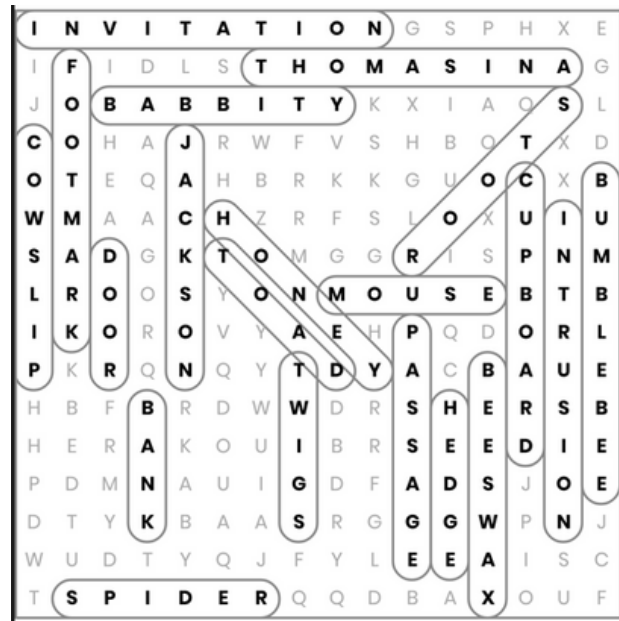
## Matching

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

## Crossword



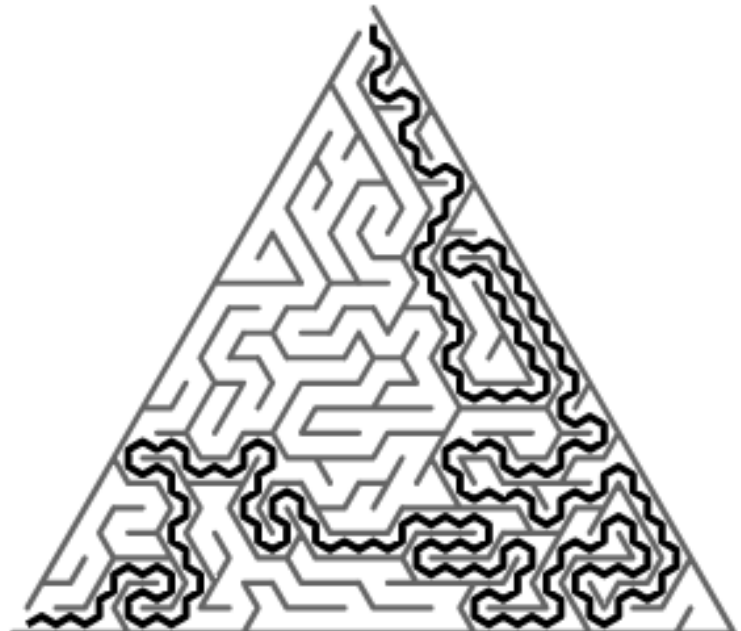
## Word Search



## Scramble

- NKAB B A N K
- BASWEEX B E E S W A X
- BEBMEBLUE B U M B L E B E E
- CISOWLP C O W S L I P
- CBORUPAD C U P B O A R D
- DHEEG H E D G E
- NYEOH H O N E Y
- ITRSNIOUN I N T R U S I O N
- USEMO M O U S E
- PASAGSE P A S S A G E
- TSMHNIAOA T H O M A S I N A
- DATO T O A D

## Maze



See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

## 1 Thessalonians 5:15



**Mrs Tittlemouse's neighbors take advantage of her and do nothing in return. Do you take more from people than you give to them? What can you do instead?**