

Simple Literature No. 53: Curriculum for  
***Mercy Watson to the Rescue***

by S. Seifert

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### How to Use This Curriculum

- 1.** Have students read the assigned chapters for 20 to 30 minutes each day.
- 2.** When students have finished the assigned chapters, ask the **Comprehension Questions**. A study guide worksheet is available for practice, but an oral discussion is appropriate for this age group.
- 3.** When you have finished discussing the comprehension questions, have students **Write a Paragraph**. Students should write in complete sentences, spell words correctly, capitalize the first letter of every sentence, and place a period at the end of each sentence.
- 4.** Although these guidelines work for this age group, remember that your students are individuals. Therefore, adjust the curriculum to your students' abilities and personalities.

Did you find something confusing, or are you excited about the curricula? You can contact us through <http://home.rmi.net/~seifert/id51.html>.

Although the number of e-mails received does not allow me to respond personally, every e-mail is read and appreciated.

If you want to view an alphabetical list of titles that have free comprehension questions, go to <http://home.rmi.net/~seifert/id50.html>.

S. Seifert

**Curriculum for  
*Mercy Watson to the Rescue* by Kate DiCamillo**

**OVERVIEW**

1. Have students read the following chapters:

- Day one – Chapters 1, 2, and 3
- Day two – Chapters 4, 5, and 6
- Day three – Chapters 7, 8, and 9
- Day four – Chapters 10, 11, and 12
- Day five – Write a paragraph

2. When students have finished reading each set of chapters, ask them the comprehension questions for that set of chapters.

3. Then prompt students to write a paragraph.

**SUMMARY of Chapters 1, 2, and 3:**

Mr. and Mrs. Watson sing a goodnight song to Mercy Watson, their pig. When they leave her bedroom, Mercy is afraid of the dark. She refuses to remain in her room and goes to Mr. and Mrs. Watson's room. Mercy crawls into Mr. and Mrs. Watson's bed. The floor groans, as if under strain. The Watsons wake up when their bed begins to fall through the floor. Mercy is able to hop off, but the Watsons are afraid to move. They don't want the bed to fall completely through the floorboards. They tell Mercy to get help and call the fire department. But Mercy only has one thing on her mind. She is hungry and wants to eat. Mercy hurries to the kitchen.

**STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS for Chapters 1, 2, and 3**

1. What scared Mercy? How did she solve that problem? Mercy liked it when Mr. and Mrs. Watson sang their goodnight song, but she did not like it when they left her alone in a dark bedroom. She solved the problem by climbing into bed with them.

2. What did Mr., Mrs., and Mercy Watson dream? Mr. Watson dreamed about driving a car that

went extremely fast. Mrs. Watson dreamed about cooking hot, buttered toast for Mercy. Mercy dreamed about eating hot, buttered toast.

3. What happened to Mr. and Mrs. Watson's bed? What did Mercy do? The bed with Mr., Mrs., and Mercy Watson began to fall through the floor. Mercy hopped off the bed and hurried to the kitchen to eat breakfast.

**SUMMARY of Chapters 4, 5, and 6:**

While the Watsons yell for help, Mercy hurries next door to see if the Lincoln sisters, Baby or Eugenia, have food she can eat. Eugenia thinks that Mercy should live with other pigs, not people, but Baby likes Mercy and has given her food in the past. When Mercy presses her snout against and makes noises at Baby's window, Baby wakes up and thinks Mercy is a monster. Eugenia calls the fire department, and then she figures out that Mercy is at the window, not a monster.

**STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS for Chapters 4, 5, and 6:**

1. Who lived next door to Mercy? Write two things about each woman. Baby and Eugenia Lincoln lived next door. Eugenia was good in emergencies and had an opinion about everything.

Her younger sister, Baby Lincoln, always agreed with Eugenia to her face, but Baby did not always believe everything her sister said. For example, Eugenia thought that pigs should live on farms.

Baby agreed when Eugenia said this, but Baby liked Mercy, and she liked Mercy living next door.

2. How did Mercy help Mrs. Watson? Because Mercy was trying to find something to eat, she frightened Baby Lincoln, which made Eugenia call

the fire department. That is exactly what Mrs. Watson wanted. She wanted the fire department.

3. What did Eugenia figure out? Eugenia figured out that there was no monster at her sister's window. She knew Mercy was at the window.

#### SUMMARY of Chapters 7, 8, and 9:

Eugenia chased Mercy out of her yard. Meanwhile, the fire truck pulls up to the curb and sees Eugenia chasing Mercy. They think the pig chase is the emergency until they hear the Watsons calling for help. The firemen save the Watsons just before their bed crashes through the floor and falls to the first floor. Then Eugenia catches Mercy.

#### STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS for 7, 8, and 9

1. The firemen arrived. They parked. Why did they think they were called? The firemen saw Eugenia chasing Mercy and thought the pig chase was the emergency.

2. Baby talked to the firemen. She told them that Eugenia called them. Why does she say Eugenia called them? Baby Lincoln told the firemen that

Eugenia called them because she, Baby, saw a monster at her window.

3. What did the firemen hear? What did they do? The firemen heard a distant cry for help. They went into the Watsons' house and saved Mr. And Mrs. Watson. Then the bed crashed through the boards to the first floor.

#### SUMMARY of Chapters 10, 11, and 12:

Eugenia catches Mercy, but it doesn't matter. Everyone but Eugenia thinks Mercy is a hero who saved the Watsons. Mrs. Watson invites the firemen and her neighbors to breakfast. Everyone but Eugenia toasts Mercy with orange juice for her bravery. When the excitement is over, Mercy takes a nap on the couch.

#### STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS for 10, 11, and 12

1. Eugenia chased Mercy. Eugenia caught Mercy. What happened to Mercy when Eugenia caught her? Nothing. The Watsons praised Mercy for saving them. Everyone thought she was a hero, except Eugenia. Eugenia believed that pigs belonged on farms and not in houses.

2. Mrs. Watson was happy. She was safe. How did

she thank everyone for their help? Mrs. Watson invited the firemen and her neighbors to breakfast.

3. How was or wasn't Mercy a hero? Mercy was not a hero. She was a pig who wanted to eat. In her pursuit of food, she accidentally caused the right things to happen at the right time.

#### WRITE A PARAGRAPH

Have students relate one aspect of *Mercy Watson to the Rescue* to their own lives by writing a paragraph: Pretend that you have a pig like Mercy for a pet. Write a paragraph about how she helped you finish your homework or get ready for school.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Study Guide for Chapters 4, 5, and 6  
*Mercy Watson to the Rescue* by Kate DiCamillo

**Instructions:** Write your answers in the spaces below.

1. Who lived next door to Mercy? Write two things about each woman.

2. How did Mercy help Mrs. Watson?

3. What did Eugenia figure out?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Study Guide for Chapters 7, 8, and 9  
*Mercy Watson to the Rescue* by Kate DiCamillo

**Instructions:** Write your answers in the spaces below.

1. The firemen arrived. They parked. Why did they think they were called?

2. Baby talked to the firemen. She told them that Eugenia called them. Why does she say Eugenia called them?

3. What did the firemen hear? What did they do?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Study Guide for Chapters 10, 11, and 12  
*Mercy Watson to the Rescue* by Kate DiCamillo

**Instructions:** Write your answers in the spaces below.

1. Eugenia chased Mercy. Eugenia caught Mercy. What happened to Mercy when Eugenia caught her?

2. Mrs. Watson was happy. She was safe. How did she thank everyone for their help?

3. How was or wasn't Mercy a hero?