

Simple Literature No. 61: Curriculum for
Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride

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 Goes for a Ride* by Kate DiCamillo**

OVERVIEW

1. Have students read the following chapters:

Day one – Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4

Day two – Chapters 5, 6, 7

Day three – Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11

Day four – Chapters 12, 13, 14

Day five – Write a paragraph

Study guides for this book are available. If you assign them, let students complete the study

guides while they are reading the book.

2. When students have finished reading the assigned chapters, ask the comprehension questions (study guide questions). If you assigned the written study guide, students may read their answers from it.

3. Prompt students to write a paragraph.

SUMMARY of Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4:

Every Saturday, Mrs. Watson makes Mr. Watson and Mercy a special meal. Then Mr. Watson and Mercy go out to his convertible. Mercy gets in the car and wants to drive. She stays in the driver's seat until Mrs. Watson promises to give her hot, buttered pancakes when they return. Finally Mercy scoots over and lets Mr. Watson drive the car. Their neighbors, the Lincoln sisters, watch Mr. Watson and Mercy drive away. The oldest sister, Eugenia, does not like the way Mr. Watson drives. She also does not like Mercy, because Mercy is a pig who is treated like she is a child.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS of Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4:

1. Mrs. Watson did the same thing each week. What did she do? Mrs. Watson made Mr. Watson and Mercy a large lunch every Saturday.

2. Mercy did the same thing each week. What did she do? Mercy ate Mrs. Watson's meal and then sat in the driver's seat of the car. She refused to get out of the driver's seat until Mrs. Watson promised to make hot, buttered toast for her

when she returned. Then Mercy moved over to the passenger seat.

3. The Lincoln sisters did the same thing each week. What did they do? Eugenia and Baby Lincoln watched Mr. Watson and Mercy leave for their Saturday drive. Eugenia complained that Mr. Watson was not a good driver and that Mercy was a pig, not a child.

SUMMARY of Chapters 5, 6, and 7:

One Saturday, Mr. Watson and Mercy go on another drive. Mr. Watson drives too fast. A policeman chases them. Baby Lincoln, who has stowed away in the back seat of the car, pops up, which panics Mr. Watson. He doesn't watch the road, so Mercy hops onto his lap and begins to drive.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS for Chapters 5, 6, and 7:

1. One day, things changed. On that day, what stayed the same for Mercy? Mrs. Watson made a large meal. Mr. Watson and Mercy went for a drive. Eugenia Lincoln complained.

2. On that day, what did Baby do? Baby Lincoln was not on the porch with her sister, Eugenia Lincoln. She hid herself in the back seat of Mr. Watson's car.

3. What happened because of Baby? Because Baby Lincoln was in the back seat of the car, Mr.

Watson did not watch the road, and Mercy began driving.

SUMMARY of Chapters 8, 9, 10, and 11:

Eugenia hurries over to Mrs. Watson's house and blames Mercy for her missing sister. Mrs. Watson puts Eugenia to work buttering toast. Meanwhile, the police tell Mercy to stop, but Mercy does not understand. She continues driving. Mr. Watson cannot press the brake because Mercy has cut off the circulation to his legs. Baby moves to the front seat and applies the brake pedal for him.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS for 8, 9, 10, and 11:

1. Eugenia looked for her sister. She did not find her. Eugenia blamed Mercy, the pig. Why did she blame the pig? Eugenia blamed Mercy because Mercy was a pig. Eugenia blamed Mercy for almost everything that went wrong.

went to work. What did she do? Mrs. Watson set about her task of making and buttering toast. She told Eugenia that there was no sense in worrying.

2. Mrs. Watson listened to her neighbor. Then she

3. What did Baby do? Baby climbed into the front seat, put on her seat belt, and then applied her foot to the brake pedal.

SUMMARY of Chapters 12, 13, and 14:

Baby Lincoln is able to stop the car. She and Mr. Watson are wearing seatbelts so they are fine. Mercy did not wear a seatbelt. She flies through the air and is fortunate to be okay. The policeman takes them home and writes a ticket, but first everyone, including Eugenia, eats hot, buttered toast.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS for 12, 13, and 14:

1. What happened when the car stopped? Mr. Watson and Baby Lincoln were fine because they wore their seatbelts. Mercy was not wearing a seatbelt. She flew through the air.

ticketed for speeding, letting a pig drive, and not stopping when the police asked him to pull over.

2. What laws were broken? Mr. Watson was

3. How did Mrs. Watson make the day better? Mrs. Watson made the day better by feeding everyone hot, buttered toast.

WRITE A PARAGRAPH

Have students relate one aspect of *Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride* to their own lives by writing a paragraph: Mercy Watson should not have driven the car. Pigs do not drive cars. When she did, bad things happened. What is something you want to do but are not supposed to do? Write about doing this thing (pretend you did it) and all the bad things that happened because you did it.

Name _____ Date _____

Study Guide for Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4
Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride by Kate DiCamillo

Instructions: Write your answers in the spaces below.

1. Mrs. Watson did the same thing each week. What did she do?

2. Mercy did the same thing each week. What did she do?

3. The Lincoln sisters did the same thing each week. What did they do?

Name _____ Date _____

Study Guide for Chapters 5, 6, and 7
Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride by Kate DiCamillo

Instructions: Write your answers in the spaces below.

1. One day, things changed. On that day, what stayed the same for Mercy?

2. On that day, what did Baby do?

3. What happened because of Baby?

Name _____ Date _____

Study Guide for Chapters 8, 9, 10, and 11
Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride by Kate DiCamillo

Instructions: Write your answers in the spaces below.

1. Eugenia looked for her sister. She did not find her. Eugenia blamed Mercy, the pig. Why did she blame the pig?

2. Mrs. Watson listened to her neighbor. Then she went to work. What did she do?

3. What did Baby do?

Name _____ Date _____

Study Guide for Chapters 12, 13, and 14
Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride by Kate DiCamillo

Instructions: Write your answers in the spaces below.

1. What happened when the car stopped?

2. What laws were broken?

3. How did Mrs. Watson make the day better?