

Name: _____

Poetry

The Tale Of Custard The Dragon

By Ogden Nash

Belinda lived in a little white house,
With a little black kitten and a little gray
mouse,
And a little yellow dog and a little red
wagon,
And a realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

Now the name of the little black kitten was
Ink,
And the little gray mouse, she called her
Blink,
And the little yellow dog was sharp as
Mustard,
But the dragon was a coward, and she
called him Custard.

Custard the dragon had big sharp teeth,
And spikes on top of him and scales
underneath,
Mouth like a fireplace, chimney for a nose,
And realio, trulio, daggers on his toes.

Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of
bears,
And Ink and Blink chased lions down the
stairs,
Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage,
But Custard cried for a nice safe cage.
At the realio, trulio, cowardly dragon.

Belinda tickled him, she tickled him
unmerciful,
Ink, Blink and Mustard, they rudely called
him Percival,
They all sat laughing in the little red wagon
At the realio, trulio, cowardly dragon.

Belinda giggled till she shook the house,
And Blink said Week! , which is giggling for
a mouse,
Ink and Mustard rudely asked his age,
When Custard cried for a nice safe cage.

Suddenly, suddenly they heard a nasty
sound,
And Mustard growled, and they all looked
around.
Meowch! cried Ink, and Ooh! cried Belinda,
For there was a pirate, climbing in the
winda.

Pistol in his left hand, pistol in his right,
And he held in his teeth a cutlass bright,
His beard was black, one leg was wood;
It was clear that the pirate meant no good.

Continue....

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The Tale Of Custard The Dragon

By Ogden Nash

Belinda paled, and she cried, Help! Help!
But Mustard fled with a terrified yelp,
Ink trickled down to the bottom of the
household,
And little mouse Blink strategically
mouseholed.

But up jumped Custard, snorting like an
engine,
Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon,
With a clatter and a clank and a jangling
squirm
He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm.

The pirate gaped at Belinda's dragon,
And gulped some grog from his pocket
flagon,
He fired two bullets but they didn't hit,
And Custard gobbled him, every bit.

Belinda embraced him, Mustard licked him,
No one mourned for his pirate victim
Ink and Blink in glee did gyrate
Around the dragon that ate the *pyrate*.

But presently up spoke little dog Mustard,
I'd been twice as brave if I hadn't been
flustered.

And up spoke Ink and up spoke Blink,
We'd have been three times as brave, we
think,
And Custard said, I quite agree
That everybody is braver than me.

Belinda still lives in her little white house,
With her little black kitten and her little gray
mouse,
And her little yellow dog and her little red
wagon,
And her realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

Belinda is as brave as a barrel full of bears,
And Ink and Blink chase lions down the
stairs,
Mustard is as brave as a tiger in a rage,
But Custard keeps crying for a nice safe
cage.

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Spelling: mouse, house, coward, cowardly, mouth, cowardly, growled, mourned

Vocabulary: coward, unmerciful, rudely, daggers, pirate, snorting, dungeon, grog, flagon, gobbled, flustered, embrace, mourned

Questions:

Answer the following questions in sentences.

1. In your own words, summarize the poem “The Tale of Custard the Dragon”.

2. What is the title of this poem?

3. What is the main idea of this poem?

4. Who wrote this poem?

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5. **Research questions:**

a. What is bullying, teasing, and taunting?

b. Suggest one way you could combat bullying?

c. Why did Belinda and the other pets called Custard "*Percival*"?

6. This poem has many examples of similes. A simile is a figure of speech.

Here is one example of a simile from the poem.

The little yellow dog was as sharp as Mustard.

A simile is a phrase in which two things are compared using "like" or "as". The example above used "as".

The two things compared are different enough from each other, but the comparison gives us a good understanding of the dog.

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This poem has many examples of similes. Can you find six more examples?

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

7. What words rhyme in this poem?

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Literal Questions

8. Where does Belinda live?

9. Complete the table below that represents Belinda's pets.

Name of pet	Type of pet	One word to describe the pet
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

10. What about the pirate scared the occupants of the house?

11. Why do you think Belinda and the other pets liked to laugh at Custard?

12. Why do you think Custard "*cried for a nice safe cage*"?

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13. Do you think Custard was bullied? Explain.

14. How did Custard stand up against the pirate?

15. Which one of the following matches the description of the intruder?



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16. What does the word "*winda*" stands for?

17. Do you think Custard can be considered brave after this incident with the pirate? Why or why not? Include a quote from the poem to help you answer this question.

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Spelling Search Puzzle

O	Z	D	O	C	H	J	E	Y	M	M	U
V	W	K	R	T	N	F	D	L	O	Q	P
G	U	I	U	A	R	K	X	D	U	X	N
S	R	O	D	N	W	W	P	R	R	Z	N
Z	M	O	E	S	U	O	H	A	N	M	I
R	F	S	W	M	M	Q	C	W	E	G	E
D	S	B	O	L	I	J	A	O	D	R	O
L	Z	U	S	H	E	A	R	C	J	L	A
U	S	Y	D	M	G	D	K	I	M	U	B
E	A	U	Q	P	U	O	O	E	T	E	V
C	O	W	A	R	D	L	Y	B	C	G	G
D	H	A	C	C	H	P	L	W	W	B	Y

Find the word in the puzzle. Words can go in any direction. Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

mouse

cowardly

growled

house

mouth

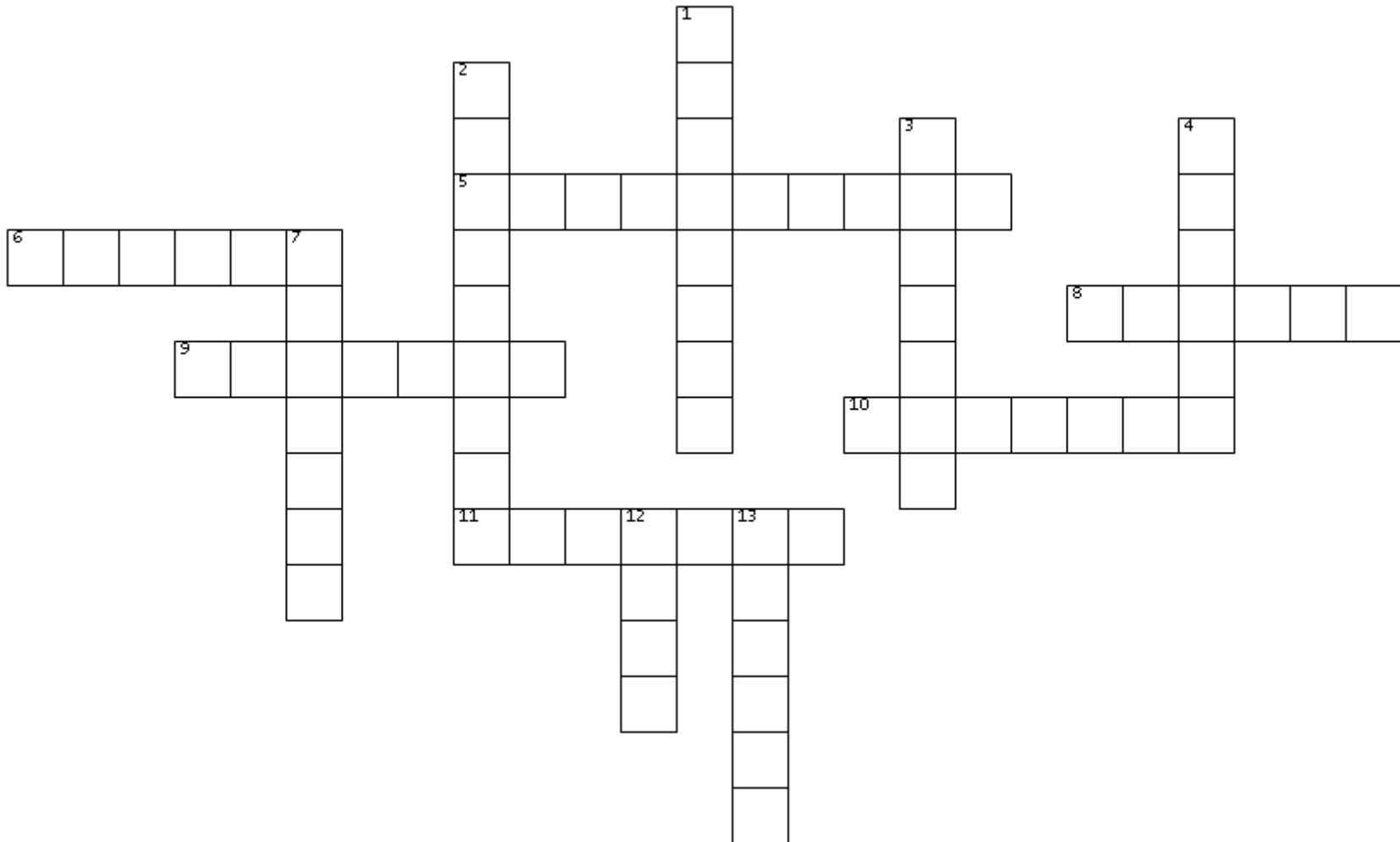
mourned

coward

cowardly

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Vocabulary Cross Word Puzzle



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Use the clues to fill in the words above. Words can go across or down. Letters are shared when the words intersect.

ACROSS

5. excessive

6. a person who commits piracy

8. large vessel

9. devoured in greedy gulps

10. felt grief or sorrow

11. a short pointed weapon

DOWN

1. noisy sound made through the nostrils

2. to make confused

3. underground chamber used to keep prisoners

4. a person who is very fearful

7. hug

12. alcohol

13. insulting

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O Z D O C H J E Y M M U
V W K R T N F D L O Q P
G U I U A R K X D U X N
S R O D N W W P R R Z N
Z M O E S U O H A N M I
R F S W M M Q C W E G E
D S B O L I J A O D R O
L Z U S H E A R C J L A
U S Y D M G D K I M U B
E A U Q P U O O E T E V
C O W A R D L Y B C G G
D H A C C H P L W W B Y

6 P I R A T E 7
9 G O B B L E D
11 D A G G E R S
12 R U
13 O D E L Y
1 S N
2 F L
3 D
4 C O W
5 U N M E R C I F U L
8 F L A G O N
10 M O U R N E D