



ENGLISH

BOOKS - FULL MARKS ENGLISH (HINGLISH)

THE TALE OF CUSTARD THE DRAGON

Questions

1. Belinda lived in a little white house. She lived there with her pets. Her pets included a little

black kitten. There was a little grey mouse. She had a little yellow dog and a little red wagon too. And to speak the truth, she had a little pet dragon

Where did Belinda live and with whom?



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2. Belinda lived in a little white house. She lived there with her pets. Her pets included a little black kitten. There was a little grey mouse. She had a little yellow dog and a little

red wagon too. And to speak the truth, she had a little pet dragon

Who was a realio, trulio, little pet dragon?



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3. The name of the little black kitten was Ink, The little grey mouse was called by the name Blink. And the little sharp dog was known as Mustard. But the dragon was coward. She called the dragon Custard.

Who were Ink and Blink?



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4. The name of the little black kitten was Ink, The little grey mouse was called by the name Blink. And the little sharp dog was known as Mustard. But the dragon was coward. She called the dragon Custard.

What did Belinda call the dragon?



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5. The dragon, Custard had big sharp teeth. On the top of him were sharp spikes. And there were scales underneath him. The dragon's mouth looked like a fireplace or hearth. His nose looked like a chimney. And really he had dagger-like sharp spikes on his toes

Describe the teeth, spikes and scales of the pet dragon.



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6. The dragon, Custard had big sharp teeth. On the top of him were sharp spikes. And there were scales underneath him. The dragon's mouth looked like a fireplace or hearth. His nose looked like a chimney. And really he had dagger-like sharp spikes on his toes

How was his mouth, nose like and what was so strange about his toes?



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7. Belinda was braver than many bears put together. Ink and Blink were so brave that they could chase even lions down the stairs. Mustard, the dog, was as brave as a tiger in anger and rage. But Custard always cried like a coward to be put up in a nice safe cage.

How were Belinda, Ink, Blink and Mustard brave?



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8. Belinda was braver than many bears put together. Ink and Blink were so brave that they could chase even lions down the stairs. Mustard, the dog, was as brave as a tiger in anger and rage. But Custard always cried like a coward to be put up in a nice safe cage.

Why did Custard cry for a nice safe cage?



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9. Belinda tickled the dragon and she used to tickle him mercilessly. Ink, Blink and Mustard mocked him by calling Percival, the brave. All of them sat together in the little red wagon and laughed at Custard. They used to laugh at the coward dragon.

How was custard insulted and mocked at by Belinda and all her other pets?



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10. Belinda tickled the dragon and she used to tickle him mercilessly. Ink, Blink and Mustard mocked him by calling Percival, the brave. All of them sat together in the little red wagon and laughed at Custard. They used to laugh at the coward dragon.

Where did all of them sit laughing at Custard?



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11. Belinda giggled loudly till the whole house shook to its foundation. Blink giggled too like a mouse. Ink and Mustard were very rude to the dragon, Custard. They insulted him by asking repeatedly about his age. Custard cried like a coward begging for a nice safe cage for him.

How and why did Belinda, Blink, Ink and Mustard giggle?



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12. Belinda giggled loudly till the whole house shook to its foundation. Blink giggled too like a mouse. Ink and Mustard were very rude to the dragon, Custard. They insulted him by asking repeatedly about his age. Custard cried like a coward begging for a nice safe cage for him.

Why was Custard so helpless as to face all his insults like a coward?



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13. Then all of a sudden, they heard a very unpleasant sound. After hearing it, Mustard growled and all of them looked around. Ink cried "meowch!" and Belinda cried "ohh!" They saw that there was a pirate who was climbing in through the window.

What was the nasty sound that they heard suddenly?



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14. Then all of a sudden, they heard a very unpleasant sound. After hearing it, Mustard growled and all of them looked around. Ink cried "meowch!" and Belinda cried "ohh!" They saw that there was a pirate who was climbing in through the window.

How did Belinda and all her pets except Custard behave when they saw a pirate climbing in the window?



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15. The pirate had pistol in his left hand. He also held another pistol in his right hand. He was holding a shining dagger among his teeth. His beard was black. One of the legs was of wood. It was quite clear that the pirate meant no good to them.

How was the pirate armed?



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16. The pirate had pistol in his left hand. He also held another pistol in his right hand. He

was holding a shining dagger among his teeth. His beard was black. One of the legs was of wood. It was quite clear that the pirate meant no good to them.

What was clear about the pirate?



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17. When Belinda saw the pirate, her face became pale with fear. She started crying for help. Mustard was terrified and fled crying. Ink hid himself at the bottom of the household.

The little mouse Blink entered its hole and saved himself strategically in this way.

How did Belinda and Mustard behave on seeing the pirate?



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18. When Belinda saw the pirate, her face became pale with fear. She started crying for help. Mustard was terrified and fled crying. Ink hid himself at the bottom of the household. The little mouse Blink entered its hole and

saved himself strategically in this way.

How did Ink and Blink tremble in fear when they saw the pirate climbing in the window?



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19. The dragon Custard jumped up. He was snorting like an engine. His tail clashed with the pirate as the iron chains strike on the dungeon floor. With a clattering and clanking sound, he made his body hard and twisted. He pounced upon the pirate as a robin pounces

upon at a worm.

How did Custard react on seeing the pirate?



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20. The dragon Custard jumped up. He was snorting like an engine. His tail clashed with the pirate as the iron chains strike on the dungeon floor. With a clattering and clanking sound, he made his body hard and twisted. He pounced upon the pirate as a robin pounces

upon at a worm.

How did he pounce upon the pirate?



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21. The pirate watched intently at Belinda's dragon Custard. He took out a small container from his pocket and gulped down some wine. He fired two bullets at the dragon but missed the aim. The bullets didn't hit Custard. The dragon swallowed every bit of the pirate

immediately.

What did the pirate gulp down?



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22. The pirate watched intently at Belinda's dragon Custard. He took out a small container from his pocket and gulped down some wine. He fired two bullets at the dragon but missed the aim. The bullets didn't hit Custard. The dragon swallowed every bit of the pirate immediately.

How did the pirate and the Custard fight against each other?



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23. Belinda embraced Custard. Mustard started licking him. No one mourned for their pirate victim who was dead. Ink and Blink danced around the dragon who had just swallowed the pirate.

How did Belinda and her pets behave when

they saw Custard gobbling down the terrible pirate?



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24. Belinda embraced Custard. Mustard started licking him. No one mourned for their pirate victim who was dead. Ink and Blink danced around the dragon who had just swallowed the pirate.

Why did Belinda and her pets dance around the dragon in glee?



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25. Soon the little dog Mustard began to speak. He declared that if he had not been nervous, he would have been twice as brave as he was. Then Ink and Blink replied that in their views, they would have been thrice as brave as they had been. Custard readily agreed that everybody there was braver than him.

How did Belinda's pets start bragging and finding excuses for their cowardice?



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26. Soon the little dog Mustard began to speak. He declared that if he had not been nervous, he would have been twice as brave as he was. Then Ink and Blink replied that in their views, they would have been thrice as brave as they had been. Custard readily agreed that everybody there was braver than him.

How did the real hero Custard betray his lack of confidence and again downgraded himself?



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1. Who are the characters in the poem? List them with their pet names.



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2. Why did Custard cry for a nice safe cage? Why is the dragon called the cowardly dragon”?



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3. "Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful..." Why?



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4. The poet has employed many poetic devices in the poem. For example: "Clashed his tail like iron in a dungeon"—the poetic device here is a simile. Can you, with your partner, list some more poetic devices used in the poem ?



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5. Read stanza three again to know how the poet describes the appearance of the dragon.



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6. Can you find out the rhyme scheme of two or three stanzas of the poem?



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7. Writers use words to give us a picture or image without actually saying what they mean.

Can you trace some images used in the poem?



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8. Do you find 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' to be a serious or a lighthearted poem? Give reasons to support your answer.



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9. This poem, in ballad form, tells a story. Have you come across any such modern song or lyric that tells a story? If you know one, tell it to the class. Collect such songs as a project.



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Additional Questions Solved Short Answer Type Questions

1. What are the names of Belinda's pets? Do their names reflect their personalities?



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2. How is the bravery of Belinda and her pets described in the poem? Do they really prove their courage and bravery?



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3. Describe the outwardly appearance of Custard, the dragon. Why did he always cry for a nice safe cage?





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4. Why did Belinda tickle Custard mercilessly?

Why was he teased as Percival'?



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5. How did they react when they heard a nasty sound?



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6. Describe the dreadful appearance of the pirate.



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7. How did Belinda and her pets react on seeing the pirate?



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8. How did Custard face the pirate differently than Belinda and her pets?



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9. Why did Belinda and her pets prove ungrateful to Custard who killed the pirate? Why did they again start calling him timid and cowardly?



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10. How did Belinda and her pets behave when the pirate was killed?





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11. What lesson or the message does the poet seem to give to the readers?



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12. How did Custard prove that he was not a coward?



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Additional Questions Solved Long Answer Type Questions

1. In spite of being so powerful and displaying rare bravery of killing and swallowing the pirate, why does the dragon Custard taunted as being a coward always asking for a nice safe cage?



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2. Evaluate Ogden Nash's 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' as a ballad. What message does the poet give to the readers in this poem?



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