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Today Peggy is Sick



Have you ever tried to pretend to be sick so that you could bunk the school? There are many ways you can adopt for avoiding going to school. Here is a girl who makes so many excuses to be sick and misleads her mother just for not going to school.

"I cannot go to school today,"
Said little Peggy Ann McKay,
"I have the **measles** and the **mumps**,
A **gash**, a rash, and purple **bumps**.

My mouth is wet, my throat is dry,
I'm going blind in my right eye.
My tonsils are as big as rocks,
I've counted sixteen chicken pox.

And there's one more- that's seventeen,
And don't you think my face looks green?
My leg is cut, my eyes are blue-
It might be instamatic flu.

I cough and sneeze and **gasp** and **choke**,
I'm sure that my left leg is broke.
My hip hurts when I move my chin,
My belly buttons **caving** in.

My back is **wrenched**, my ankles **sprained**,
My '**pendix** pains each time in rains.
My nose is cold, my toes are **numb**,
I have a shiver in my thumb.



My neck is **stiff**, my voice is weak,
I hardly **whisper** when I speak.
My tongue is filling up my mouth,
I think my hair is falling out.

My elbows' bent, my spine is not straight.
My temperature is one-o-eight.
My brain is shrunk, I cannot hear,
There is a hole inside my ear.

I have a hang nail, and my heart is - what?
What's that? What's that you say?
You say today is..... Saturday?
G' bye, I'm going out to play!"

—Sbel Siverstein



Word-Web

- **measles** : infectious viral disease marked by red spots on the skin
- **mumps** : infectious viral disease with swelling on the body
- **gash** : long and deep cut
- **gasp** : to labour for breath
- **caving in** : to fall in or smash
- **sprained** : wrench causing pain and swelling
- **pendix** : appendix, a small organ inside the body near our stomach,
- **whisper** : to speak softly
- **bumps** : swelling or dent
- **choke** : hindrance in breathing
- **wrenched** : strong twist
- **numb** : without sensation
- **stiff** : rigid, not moving smoothly



Comprehension

» Multi-Menu

Multiple Choice Questions

A. Tick against the correct answers.

1. The colour of Peggy's bumps is _____ .

(a) yellow

(b) purple

(c) pink

2. The little girl is going to be blind in the _____ .
 (a) left eye (b) right eye (c) both eyes
3. The little girl has a shiver in her _____ .
 (a) thumb (b) nose (c) hands
4. The girl says that her spine is not _____ .
 (a) sprained (b) straight (c) shrunk
5. The girl's temperature is _____ .
 (a) eighty-eight (b) ninety-eight (c) one-o-eight

» Pick and Fill

B. Complete the lines of the poem.

1. My mouth is _____ my throat is _____ .
2. I'm going _____ in my right _____ .
3. My tonsils are as big as _____ .
4. I've counted _____ chicken _____ .

C. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements.

1. The girl cannot go to school because she is really sick.
2. The girl's mouth is wet but her throat is not dry.
3. The girl feels that her left eye has gone blind.
4. The tonsils of the girl are really as big as rocks.
5. The girl does not know what happened to her heart.
6. The girl really pretends to be sick to avoid school.

» Matching-Mania

D. Match the adjectives in Column A with correct nouns in Column B.

Column A

1. sixteen •
2. dry •
3. straight •
4. green •
5. purple •
6. wet •

Column B

- (a) bumps
- (b) mouth
- (c) throat
- (d) chicken pox
- (e) face
- (f) spine

» Question-Queue

E. Answer each of the followings questions in one or two sentences.

1. List five diseases the girl is suffering from.
2. Write the names of five organs of the girl connected with diseases.
3. What are as big as rocks?
4. Is the girl really suffering from so many diseases? Why/why not?
5. Is the girl pretending to be ill? If so, what is the reason?
6. What does the girl say when she finds no disease to say for her heart?



Vocabulary

▶ Make sentences of your own using the words given below.

1. blind : _____
2. count : _____
3. sneeze : _____
4. choke : _____
5. hurt : _____
6. shiver : _____

▶ Write rhyming words choosing from the poem.

- | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| mumps | _____ | dry | _____ | rocks | _____ |
| choke | _____ | numb | _____ | weak | _____ |
| mouth | _____ | hear | _____ | say | _____ |



Think-n-Thrive

- The small girl names so many diseases to be suffering from only to avoid school. Can you name some more diseases that are so common?



Grammar-Grip

▶ Adverb of Time

Adverb of time answers the question when an action is performed.

Examples: today, tomorrow, yesterday, daily, early, now, then, soon, late, immediately, already, before, etc.

Look at these examples:

- (a) The teacher teaches us **daily**.

(b) My brother was badly hurt **yesterday**.

(c) Today I got up **early**.

(d) The function will go to an end **soon**.

► **Fill in the blanks with suitable adverb of time.**

1. The devotees pray to God _____ . (daily, never)
2. The guests will reach here _____ . (yesterday, tomorrow)
3. We are _____ late for the movie. (enough, already)
4. The Rajdhani Express arrived _____ today. (late, lately)
5. I have paid my _____ bill of electricity. (late, monthly)
6. She _____ hid herself behind the wall. (immediately, early)
7. I came here _____ my father had gone. (already, before)
8. I have taken my dinner and _____ I want to sleep. (soon, now)
9. I went to the market but it was _____ closed. (daily, already)
10. First take a bath and _____ go to school. (now, then)

» **Reading Skills**

► **Read the following poem carefully and answer the questions that follow.**

Columbus was a wise man
Who thought the earth was round;
He planned to sail across the sea
Where trading could be found.

Though kings did not believe him,
And men thought he would fail,
He found one friend, the Spanish queen,
Who gave him ships to sail.

The crew rebelled, the sea was rough
In 1492;
Still this brave man kept sailing on
In spite of sea or crew.

But when they spied America,
They landed with a cheer-
And that is why we celebrate
Columbus Day each year.

— Gertrude M Robinson

A. Tick the appropriate option.

1. What kind of a person was Columbus?
(a) foolish (b) wise
(c) politician (d) historian
2. What was Columbus' idea about the earth?
(a) The earth is flat. (b) The earth is square.
(c) The earth is round. (d) None of these.
3. Why did Columbus plan to sail across the seas?
(a) To conquer more countries (b) To find places to trade
(c) To meet people (d) To complete a research project.

B. Answer the following questions briefly.

1. What were the hardships Columbus had to face while accomplishing his mission?
2. Why is Columbus Day celebrated?
3. When is Columbus Day celebrated in
(i) Spain (b) United States
4. What was the mission of Columbus?
5. Who helped Columbus in his mission?

» Fun to write

When you are not in a mood to go to school, what do you pretend? Describe it in a short paragraph.
