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## Who Did Patrick's Homework?

Carol Moore

### SUMMARY OF THE LESSON

Patrick was not a lazy boy. He played hockey and basketball with zeal. But he hated doing homework. He had little interest in studies. His teacher warned him to do homework. If he didn't do so he wouldn't learn anything.

One day Patrick found his cat playing with a little doll. It was, in fact, not a doll but a small-sized man, an elf. The elf wore a woollen shirt, a tall hat and breeches. He was in trouble. He needed help. Patrick saved his life from the cat. The elf promised to grant him a wish.

Patrick was glad. He called himself lucky. He asked the tiny man to do all his homework for 35 days. The little man showed dislike. But he agreed to keep his promise.

The tiny man, however, did not know much about maths and English. He needed help. Patrick consulted the dictionary. He had to sit beside the man to guide him. He brought many books from the library. He worked very hard to solve all problems.

The elf went away after 35 days. Patrick got good grades in all the subjects. He was a changed boy now. He became a gentle, ideal boy. He still thought he had made the tiny man do all his homework. But, truly speaking, he had done it himself.

### TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

#### WORKING WITH THE TEXT

(Page 11)

**Answer the following questions** (Refer to that part of the text whose number is given against the question. This applies to the comprehension questions throughout the book.)

1. What did Patrick think his cat was playing with? What was it really? (2)

**Ans.** Patrick thought that his cat was playing with a little doll. It was, in fact, a very small-sized man, an elf.

2. Why did the little man grant Patrick a wish? (2)

**Ans.** Patrick had saved the tiny man's life from the cat by not handing him back to the cat. So he promised to fulfil one wish of Patrick.

3. What was Patrick's wish? (3)

**Ans.** Patrick hated doing homework. His greatest wish was that the little man should do all his homework till the end of the session.

4. In what subjects did the little man need help, to do Patrick's homework? (5, 6)

**Ans.** The little man needed Patrick's help in maths, English and history.

5. How did Patrick help him? (7)

**Ans.** Patrick sat beside the little man and guided him. He brought books from the library and read out to him.

6. Who do you think did Patrick's homework - the little man, or Patrick himself? Give reasons for your answer. (9, 10)

**Ans.** It was Patrick himself who actually did all the homework. He had to help the elf again and again with guidance and books.

### WORKING WITH LANGUAGE

(Page 11)

- A. Fill in the blanks in the sentences below with the words or phrases from the box. (You may not know the meaning of all the words. Look such words up in a dictionary, or ask your teacher.)**

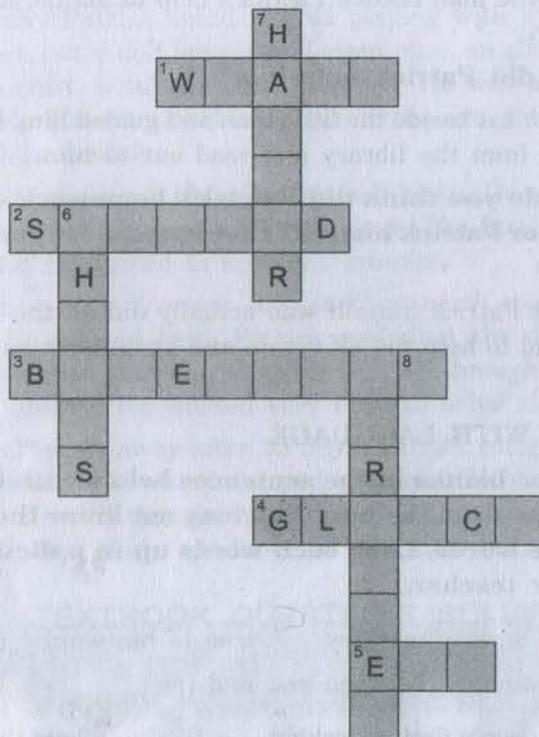
out of luck, mystery true to his word chores  
semester between you and me look up

1. Some people find household \_\_\_\_\_ a bore, but I like to help at home.
2. Who stole the diamond is still a \_\_\_\_\_.

3. This \_\_\_\_\_ we are going to have a class exhibition.
4. \_\_\_\_\_, the elf began to help Patrick.
5. Can you \_\_\_\_\_ this word in the dictionary?
6. I started early to be on time, but I was \_\_\_\_\_. There was a traffic jam!
7. She says she's got a lot of books, but \_\_\_\_\_ I think most of them are borrowed.

- Ans.** 1. chores          2. mystery          3. semester  
 4. True to his word          5. look up  
 6. out of luck          7. between you and me

**B. Use the clues given below to complete this crossword puzzle.**



**Across**

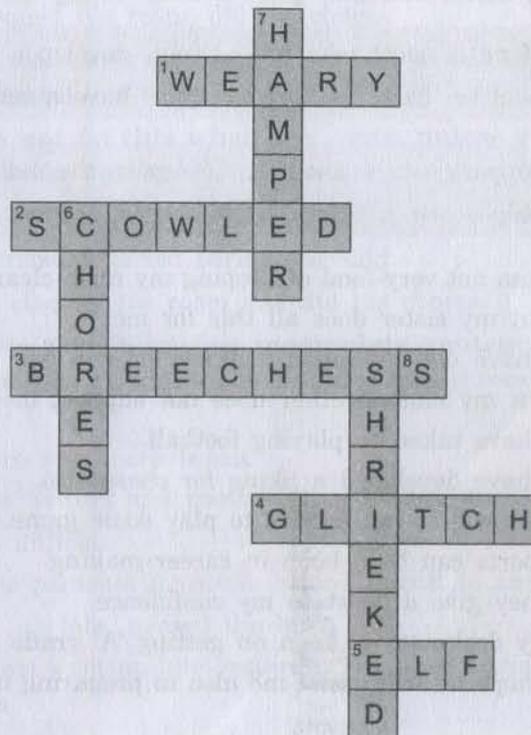
1. Very tired
2. had an angry look on the face

3. short trousers
4. a fault in a machine that prevents it from working properly
5. a small and naughty boy-fairy.

**Down**

6. work that must be done everyday, often boring
7. a basket with a lid
8. gave a short, high-pitched cry

**Ans.**



**SPEAKING**

**(Page 13)**

- A. In the story Patrick does difficult things he hates to do, because the elf pretends he needs help. Have you ever done something difficult or frightening, by pretending about it in some way? Tell your classmates about it.**

Or

Say what you feel about homework. (The words and phrases in the boxes may help you.) Do you think it is useful, even though you may not like it? Form pairs, and speak to each other.

**For example:**

You may say, "I am not fond of homework."

Your partner may reply, "But my sister helps me with my lessons at home, and that gives a boost to my marks."

(not) be fond of (not) take to (not) develop a liking for  
(not) appeal to (not) be keen on (not) have a taste for

support assist with the aid of  
help be a boon give a boost to

- Ans.**
1. I am not very fond of keeping my room clean and tidy.
  2. But my sister does all this for me.
  3. I have not developed a liking for non veg.
  4. But my elder brother does not support me.
  5. I have taken to playing football.
  6. I have developed a liking for chess also.
  7. I appeal to my friends to play some game.
  8. Sports can be a boon in career making.
  9. They give a boost to my confidence.
  10. My deskmate is keen on getting 'A' grade.
  11. I hope he will assist me also in preparing my lessons.

## WRITING

(Page 13)

**A. This story has a lot of rhyming words, as a poem does. Can you write out some parts of it like a poem, so that the rhymes come at the end of separate lines?**

**For example:**

Patrick never did homework. "Too boring", he said.

He played baseball and Hockey and Nintendo instead.

**Ans.** The man of the tiniest size  
was true to his word and wise  
Patrick saved the elf from the cat  
The elf promised to do all that  
Patrick loved sports and hated homework  
He wasted his time, and studies shirk

**B. Look at these sentences.**

1. "Too boring," he said.
2. Cleaned his room, did his chores.

**When we speak we often leave out words that can easily be guessed.**

**We do not do this when we write, unless we are trying to write as we speak (as in the story).**

**So, if we were to write carefully, we would say:**

- Homework is too boring, he said.
- He cleaned his room and did his chores.

**C. Rewrite the following incomplete sentences carefully, so that the reader does not have to guess what is left out.**

1. more and more books.

**Ans.** The writers and poets read more and more books.

2. too difficult.

**Ans.** This personal question is too difficult to answer.

3. got up late, missed the bus.

**Ans.** When I got up late yesterday morning, I missed the school bus.

4. solved the mystery.

**Ans.** Lord Krishna solved the mystery of life after death.

**D. Look at this cartoon by R. K. Laxman. Read the sentence given below the cartoon. Discuss the following questions with your partner.**

- What is it about?
- Do you find it funny? If so, why?

- Do you think a cartoon is a serious drawing? Why or why not?



Get on with your homework— the sums, the composition, history, geography, chemistry, physics— and stop reading *The Laws Against Child Labour!*

- Ans.**
- It is about a father's concern for the betterment of his child.
  - Yes, the cartoon is really funny. Father orders the child to labour (to work hard) with his studies. But he forbids the boy to read the laws against child labour.
  - A cartoon is chiefly meant to make us laugh. It is also a serious drawing in one sense. It draws our attention to some problem that affects us all.

□□□

## ★ A House, A Home

Lorraine M. Halli

### SUMMARY OF THE POEM

A house and a home are not the same thing. They differ in many ways. A house is just a set of rooms made of brick and stone, wood and glass. It has an open ground, tile floors, cement plaster on the walls, windows and doors. But it is a lifeless structure.

A home is a living unit. It means a family, a set of members. It has parents and children. They are bonded with ties of love and respect. They take care of each other. They share each other's joy and sorrow. They work selflessly and co-operate to meet their basic needs.

### TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

#### WORKING WITH THE POEM

(Page 16)

1. Do you agree with what the poet says? Talk to your partner and complete these sentences.

- A house is made of \_\_\_\_\_
- It has \_\_\_\_\_
- A home is made by \_\_\_\_\_
- It has \_\_\_\_\_

- Ans.**
- lifeless brick and stone.
  - window glasses, a courtyard, tile floors, doors and a roof.
  - loving and caring parents and children.
  - members who understand each other. They love and care for one another selflessly.

2. Now complete these sentences about your house and home.

- (i) My house is \_\_\_\_\_
- (ii) The best thing about my home is \_\_\_\_\_

**Ans.** (i) a structure of bricks, marbles and tiles. It has beautiful windows, ventilators and doors.

(ii) that all the members are very loving and caring. There are no disputes or quarrels among us.

