

Amelia Bedelia

Written by Peggy Parish

Classroom Favorites



Teacher's Guide by Wanda Miller

A Perma-Bound Production

Synopsis

Amelia Bedelia sets out to clean the Rogers' house. Mrs. Rogers leaves her there alone with a list of instructions, as she and Mr. Rogers will be gone for the day. The instructions were quite simple.

Before completing her list of duties, Amelia bakes a lemon-meringue pie to surprise them.

To the readers delight, Amelia Bedelia then proceeds to follow Mrs. Rogers' instructions exactly as they are written. She changes the towels in the green bathroom by cutting designs in them, puts dusting powder all over the furniture, draws a picture of the drapes when the sun comes in, "dresses" the chicken, and so on.

Mr. and Mrs. Rogers return home and are shocked to see what Amelia has done. Mrs. Rogers is about to fire her when Mr. Rogers puts a bite of the pie in her mouth. They both quickly decide Amelia must stay, and Mrs. Rogers learns to say undust the furniture, close the drapes and things like that.

Biographical Sketch

Peggy Parish was born on July 14, 1927 in Manning, South Carolina. She graduated from the University of South Carolina with a degree in English. She taught school in Oklahoma, Kentucky and in New York City where she taught third grade for many years at the Dalton School. After teaching, Parish decided to write a book. At first her manuscripts were rejected until she met some editors who helped her with her first books.

After 1962 Peggy Parish wrote over thirty-five books for children including her popular *Amelia Bedelia* series. Peggy Parish died on November 18, 1988 at the age of 61.

Critic's Corner

In *The Read-Aloud Handbook*, Jim Trelease describes Amelia Bedelia as "America's most loveable maid since Hazel."

The plays on words in *Amelia Bedelia* are very popular with children and are indeed very funny. You and your students are bound to enjoy sharing *Amelia Bedelia*, as well as the other books in the series.

General Objectives

1. To place Amelia's instructions in the correct order

2. To retell the story of *Amelia Bedelia*

3. To understand what homonyms are

Meaning Study

grand - "such a grand house."
(impressive in size or appearance)

meringue - "I'll make a lemon-meringue pie."
(frothy topping of beaten egg whites and sugar)

change - change the towels in the green bathroom.
(to remove and replace with something different)

snipped - she snipped a little here and a little there.
(to cut with small, quick strokes, as with a scissors)

dust - Dust the furniture
(to wipe dust from)

furniture - "At my house we undust the furniture."
(tables, chairs, cabinets, desks, etc.)

draw - Draw the drapes when the sun comes in.
(to close)

aired - "So those things need to be aired out, too."
(to put out in air for freshening)

measure - Measure two cups of rice.
(to set aside a certain amount)

trim - . . . trim the fat before you put the steak in the icebox.
(to remove by cutting)

icebox - (refrigerator)

dress - And please dress the chicken.
(prepare for cooking)

Comprehension Study

1. What was the first thing Amelia Bedelia did after the Rogers left?
(She made a lemon-meringue pie.)

2. Describe Amelia Bedelia.
 3. Describe the Rogers' house.
 4. How did Amelia Bedelia change the towels in the green bathroom?
(*She got some scissors and snipped a little here and a little there.*)
 5. When dusting the furniture, what did Amelia do?
(*She put dusting powder all over it.*)
 6. Instead of closing the drapes when the sun came in, what did Amelia do?
(*She drew a picture of the drapes.*)
 7. Did Mrs. Rogers want Amelia to unscrew the light bulbs and take them outside to be aired out?
(*No, she wanted her to turn the lights off when she was done in the living room.*)
 8. What did Amelia trim the fat on the steak with?
(*Lace and bits of ribbon.*)
 9. How did Amelia dress the chicken?
(*She put clothes on it.*)
 10. If you were Mr. or Mrs. Rogers, what would you have done when you found out what Amelia had done?
(*Accept reasonable answers.*)
 11. What was the reason that Mr. and Mrs. Rogers did not fire Amelia?
(*After tasting the pie she baked, they were willing to be more specific in directions, as long as she was there to make lemon-meringue pies.*)
7. Have your students illustrate their favorite scene from the book to be displayed on the bulletin board.
 8. Have your students bring in their favorite pie recipe from home — these could be made into a class booklet called "Our Favorite Pies."
 9. With the help of parent volunteers, make lemon-meringue pies and have an Amelia Bedelia party.

Bibliography of Related Books

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- Schwartz, Alvin. *All Of Our Noses Are Here and Other Noodle Tales*. Harper & Row, 1985.
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- Terban, Marvin. *Eight Ate: A Feast Of Homonym Riddles*. Clarion Books, 1982.
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Student Involvement Activities

1. Read the other Amelia Bedelia books to or with your class.
2. Following the reading of the Amelia Bedelia books, read *The King Who Rained*, *Chocolate Moose For Dinner*, *A Little Pigeon Toad*, and *Eight Ate: A Feast Of Homonym Riddles* to or with your class, for a discussion on homonyms.
3. This would be an opportune time to instruct your class on homonyms.
4. As a group, rewrite the following directions so that Amelia could follow them correctly:
 - Change the towels in the green bathroom.
 - Measure two cups of rice.
 - Please trim the fat before you put the steak in the icebox.
 - Please dress the chicken.
5. Have your students write more instructions for Amelia Bedelia to follow at the Rogers' house.
6. After reading all of the Amelia Bedelia books with your class, write, illustrate and publish a new Amelia Bedelia book by your class.

TEST

Vocabulary Test

Write the word that belongs in the blank.

aired	change	draw	dressed	dust	furniture
grand	icebox	measure	meringue	snip	trim

1. The Rogers live in a _____ house.
2. Let's top the pie with a _____ .
3. _____ the sheets on the bed.
4. I like to _____ out the coupons from the newspaper.
5. _____ your room.
6. Will you please _____ the shade?
7. Put the lettuce in the _____ .
8. Mom _____ the turkey.
9. We _____ the blankets in the sunshine.
10. _____ the edges off the picture.

Comprehension Test

Part I: Number the following instructions that Mrs. Rogers left for Amelia in the correct order. (5 points each)

- _____ A. Measure two cups of rice.
- _____ B. Draw the drapes when the sun comes in.
- _____ C. Please dress the chicken.
- _____ D. Dust the furniture.
- _____ E. Put the lights out when you finish in the living room.
- _____ F. Change the towels in the green bathroom.
- _____ G. Please trim the fat before you put the steak in the icebox.

Part II: Choose 5 of the instructions from Part I that Mrs. Rogers left for Amelia to do. Rewrite these instructions so that Amelia Bedelia would be able to follow them correctly. (4 points each)

Part III: True Or False (2 points each)

Write T for True or F for False in the blank next to each of the following statements.

- _____ 1. Amelia Bedelia is a funny maid.
- _____ 2. Amelia makes an apple pie for Mr. and Mrs. Rogers.
- _____ 3. Amelia changed the towels in the green bathroom by drawing flowers on them.
- _____ 4. Amelia put dusting powder all over the furniture.
- _____ 5. Amelia is very good at her job.
- _____ 6. Amelia put a little girl's dress on the chicken.
- _____ 7. Amelia drew a picture of the drapes.
- _____ 8. Amelia hung the light bulbs on the clothesline outside.

Part IV: Comprehension: Essay Questions (10 points each)

Write one or two paragraphs to answer each of the following questions.

- 1. Retell your favorite part of the book, and explain why you like it the most.
- 2. Pretend that you are Amelia Bedelia and write a diary entry about your first day at the Rogers' house.
- 3. Imagine that Amelia Bedelia is going to be your own personal maid for a day. Make a list of five instructions for her to follow in order to clean your room. Be sure to make it clear what you want done.

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| 1. grand | 6. draw |
| 2. meringue | 7. icebox |
| 3. Change | 8. dressed |
| 4. snip | 9. aired |
| 5. Dust | 10. Trim |

Comprehension

Part I: Sequential Order (5 points)

- 5 A.
- 3 B.
- 7 C.
- 2 D.
- 4 E.
- 1 F.
- 6 G.

Part II: Accept any reasonable answers. (4 points each)

Part III: True or False (2 points each)

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. T | 5. F |
| 2. F | 6. F |
| 3. F | 7. T |
| 4. T | 8. T |

Part IV: Comprehension: Essay Questions (10 points each)

Accept reasonable answers.

TEACHER'S NOTES



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