

The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Ogden Nash

1 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.

5 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.

9 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.

13 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.

17 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.

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

25 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.

29 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.

33 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.

39 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.

45 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.

50 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.

54 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.

60 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.

Unit 6: The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

1. Why do you think the kitten was called 'Ink'? (verse 2).

.....

2MI1

1 mark

2. Why might someone think that Custard would be scary?

.....

2C3

2 marks

3. In the poem, what made Mustard growl? Refer to the text in your answer.

.....

.....

4. Write **two** things from the text which show that the pirate 'meant no good' (verse 8).

.....

2C4

1 mark

2MI1

1 mark

5. 'And little mouse Blink strategically mouseholed' (verse 9). Tick the statement(s) that is/are closest in meaning to the underlined word:

- Played a game near his mouse hole.
- Found that his hole was full of other mice.
- Decided to see if the pirate was afraid of mice.
- Sensibly ran for his mouse hole.

2MI2

1 mark

6. Copy the words that tell you how scared the pirate was when he saw the dragon.

.....

2C1

1 mark

7. Copy **two** words or phrases which refer to the sound that Custard made when he attacked the pirate.

.....

2Lfe2

2 marks

8. Do you think Custard will change as a result of his adventures? Yes / No
Explain your answer fully, referring to the text.

.....

.....

2Lfe1

1 mark

9. Tick the best summary of the story:

- The friends were home. A pirate climbed in through the window. Everyone was scared and disappeared except Custard the dragon who ate the pirate.
- Belinda and her friends always teased the dragon because he cried so much. Even after he ate the pirate, they still teased him.
- Mustard the dog was the bravest of all Belinda's friends, but even he ran away when the pirate came.

2MI3

2 marks