

Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle

Recommended for Grades 1-4

Book Summary: Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle

This classic book was written in 1947. In this story, Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle is a strange little woman who lives in an upside-down house. She bakes cookies for children and come up with all sorts of clever ways for parents to help stop various misbehaviors in children. Each chapter is a different example of a child misbehaving and how Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle helps the parent solve the problem, with usual hilarious results.

[SPOILER] One example is a boy who refuses to pick up after himself. Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle tells the mother to stop picking up after her son. Soon the boy is trapped in his room & the parents are using a hose to give him water. The boy doesn't seem to mind until Mrs. Piggle Wiggle goes past the house with a circus parade. Then he can't wait to clear a way out & go outside. Another example is for the little girl who refuses to bathe. Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle tells the parents to let her get as dirty as possible for two weeks. Then when she is sleeping they rub radish seeds onto her skin. When they start to sprout, the little girl starts to panic & wants to take a bath. These are just a few of the many tales in this book.

Author Biography: Betty MacDonald

Betty MacDonald was born in Colorado on March 26, 1908. Her given name was Anne Elizabeth Campbell Bard. As a child, her family moved around a lot. Finally, they settled in Seattle. In 1927, she married Robert E. Heskett and moved with him to his farm where they had no plumbing or electricity. They had two daughters, Anne and Joan.

Four years later, Betty left her husband and took the kids to move back into her family home in Seattle. She worked different jobs to keep her family afloat. In 1942, she married Donald C. MacDonald. She became an author because her sister, Mary told a publishing scout that Betty was writing a book, and then he asked to see the manuscript. To stop her sister from being embarrassed, Betty actually started writing a manuscript and submitted it to him. She ended up getting published. In 1947, her children's book, Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle was published. She wrote several more books about Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle because she was such a popular character.



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Discussion Questions: Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle

1. Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle lives in an upside-down house. Do you think such a thing is possible? Would you like to live in an upside-down house? Why or why not?
2. Do you know of any adults who are like Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle? How are the adults you know like her? How are they different?
3. Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle helps a lot of parents with their children. Which of her ways of fixing the children did you think was the funniest? Why?
4. Did you think that any of Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle's advice was mean? If so, which advice?
5. This book was written in the 1940s. Do you think children now are different from children then? How are they different? How are they the same?
6. Do you know anyone with the same bad habits some of these children have? Do you think Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle's advice would work to fix their bad habit? Why or why not?
7. In each of these stories, it is the children's mother who is worried about their child and calls Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle for help. Why do you think it is the mother and not the father who worries and asks for help?
8. In the story of the selfish cure, Dick puts labels with his name on everything. When the kids at school see this, they make fun of him and even take his apple and play keep away. Do you think this is bullying? Do you think Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle wanted him to be bullied to make him stop being selfish? Why or why not? Do you think this was a good way to teach him a lesson?
9. In this story, each chapter is almost like its own story, separate from the rest. Did you like how this story was written? Why or why not?
10. This is the first book of several in a series. Do you think you will read the next story? Why or why not? Would you recommend the Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle stories? Who would you recommend them to? Why?



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