

## The mystery of the missing cake: KS2 resources

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*Print several copies, or photocopy the 'Clue cards' supplied, to make several sets. Cut out the cards and shuffle them, Give one set to each group of children.*

*Here is the story which goes with the cards.*

### Sam and Jane

It was tea time. Jane and Sam had rushed home from school. Their school bags were bulging with tatty, dog-eared books. Jane dumped her bag on the floor; its books spilled out in an untidy heap onto the carpet. Uncle John, who was a great storyteller and also a wizard, rocked gently in his chair, a glass of red wine in his hand. Jane said to Uncle John, 'By the way, Miss Woodhead was as nice as pie today. She's been on an in-service day with the adviser. The adviser and Miss Woodhead were looking at interesting ways of teaching history – and she certainly needs some of those! What she learned was to set pairs of pupils history tasks to report back on in the next lesson. She gushed on and on about this new idea for ages, and then she picked on Sam and me because Sam was yawning. I knew she was going to have a go at us.

'Miss Woodhead said: "You two, seeing as you always like to do things that are really hard, you can create one of your famous History Mystery lessons for little children, for the Reception children who have just started school. Jane, I remember you told me how much you still enjoy reading nursery rhymes."

'So, Uncle John, we have to create a history mystery for little children.'

'How on earth are we supposed to do that?' groaned Sam. Uncle John rocked back in his chair. 'I see that you have been reading the magic novels of Philip Pullman and J K Rowling. On your adventures you usually go back to places in the past, but how would you like to go to a world of the imagination, a real parallel universe?'

‘Er, okay Uncle John, only if it is somewhere pleasant and not too dangerous.’

‘Yes, Jane, this is a place where you will be in no danger. Indeed, it is somewhere you would not have thought you would go in your wildest dreams.’ Uncle John took a sip from his wine glass, looked thoughtful and remarked, ‘Yes, it will not be a problem. You could slip off now, the trip I am thinking about will only take a day.’

Sam started grinning, thinking that in a second they might be off to meet Orcs whom he would slaughter in battle, chopping them into tiny bits – he couldn’t wait. Jane feared the worst as Uncle John turned his disappearing ring. The room became a blur and all was dark. With a heavy bump they arrived in the mystery land.

They opened their eyes. It was lunchtime on a bright sunny day. As she looked around Jane’s suspicions were confirmed. They were standing just outside a small cottage with a tuffet outside, under a tree. This was the cottage of Little Miss Muffet. It was in the countryside, by the side of the road into town. Uncle John had dumped them into Nursery Rhyme Land!

At the door to the cottage stood a little girl. She was sobbing, holding a hanky to her streaming eyes. ‘My cake, my cake, my cake has gone. Someone has stolen it. I put it outside the door first thing this morning to cool. I baked it for Jack, he’s been so miserable since he fell down the hill. Just a minute ago I went to get it to ice it for Jack’s birthday party this evening – and it wasn’t there. It’s gone, what can I do?’

*[Here, stop the story and give out the nursery rhyme books for the class to look at – see the lesson notes.]*

## The story of the missing cake

‘Little Miss Muffet, we will try to solve the mystery of the missing cake and find it in time for you to ice, decorate and put candles on it. Sam and I have to work out a plan as history detectives, starting with some questions. I am sure we can find the thief and recover the cake in time for the party. What we have to do is to get hold of as many clues as we can and work out what happened. We have to try to get inside the mind of the thief, to find out his or her motive.’

Little Miss Muffet stopped sobbing, wiped the tears from her face and said, ‘Come inside, we can have a hot cup of tea. Last night I had a dream that today someone would come to my rescue – and here you are. This is what happened.’

It is Jack’s birthday today. His head is still sore, so I thought it would be a lovely idea to bake him a yummy birthday cake. Jill and I were going to hold a surprise party for him. I sent out invitation cards a week ago. Jack did not know - as I said, his party was going to be a big surprise. This morning I got up really early to bake the cake. I had bought flour, milk, eggs, sugar, currants and raisins and all the other things to make and ice a scrumptious cake. By breakfast time the cake was baked. I took it out of the oven and it was perfect.’

At this point Little Miss Muffet began to cry again; tears rolled down her face and formed a couple of little pools on the table. Jane put an arm round her shoulder to comfort her, and lent her a dry hanky. Little Miss Muffet dabbed away the tears, took a deep breath, and went on with her story. ‘The cake was hot, so I decided to put it in a cool place. Outside is a table that is in the shade. So, with great care I carried it outside and placed it on the table. I have been such a fool. My house is beside the road into town, so anyone who came by the house on the way into town would have been able to see it.’

Jane said: ‘The first thing to do is to come up with questions that need answering. This is my list:

Who stole the cake?

When did they steal the cake?

Why did they steal it?

What happened when they stole the cake?

Where is the cake?

'To answer the questions we need to sort out the facts. So, we'll ask you to tell us everything that happened today, and who came by the house. We can write down each fact on its own card. Then we can work in what order things happened today.'

Little Miss Muffet replied: 'I can tell you about who went past the house today. But I can't remember the order in which they all walked past the window.'

'Never mind,' said Sam, 'we can write everything you tell us on the cards and try to work out the answer to the mystery from them.'

So Little Miss Muffet told Sam and Jane everything she knew, and Jane wrote down the information on some cards she had with her.

## The story of the missing cake: Clue cards

### Card 1 – Naughty Girl with a Curl

Close behind Little Jack Horner walked Naughty Girl with a Curl.

Naughty Girl with a Curl loved to play mean tricks.

She had previously put something horrid in Goosey Gander's birthday cake.

### Card 2 – Naughty Girl with a Curl and Little Miss Muffet

Naughty Girl with a Curl did not like Little Miss Muffet.

Little Miss Muffet had once tried to stop her from playing a trick.

### Card 3 – Little Miss Muffet bakes a cake

Little Miss Muffet decided to bake a cake.

Her cakes were famous.

All the Nursery Rhyme Land characters loved to eat them.

### Card 4 – The cake

Little Miss Muffet made the cake from lots of eggs, sugar, flour and butter.

The cake was huge. On it Little Miss Muffet planned to put icing and candles.

### **Card 5 – The cake outside the door**

When Little Miss Muffet had baked the cake, she put it outside on a table to cool down.

Then she went back into the house and sat in her chair.

From her chair she could see the Nursery Rhyme Land characters who walked past into town.

### **Card 6 – Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary**

The first person to go by was Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary.

She was always in a muddle and said things that were wrong.

If she had seen the cake, and someone asked her if she had seen it, she would say 'No'.

If she had not seen the cake she would say 'Yes'.

### **Card 7 – Greedy Nan**

Then along came Greedy Nan.

She was always hungry and loved cake.

She was going to meet Little Jack Horner.

### **Card 8 – Little Jack Horner**

Little Jack Horner came by on his way to meeting Greedy Nan.

Little Jack Horner liked to eat a lot.

He would always eat a cake or a pie if he could get his hands on one.

### **Card 9 – Little Boy Blue**

Little Boy Blue now came into sight.

He was going to the baker's to buy a cake.

Little Boy Blue was tired, and the cake shop was a long way away.

### **Card 10 – Little Johnny Green**

The last person that Little Miss Muffet saw was Little Johnny Green.

He was so mean that he would not spend any money on a fire or on food, and he treated animals badly.

That was why Little Johnny Green always asked Little Miss Muffet to give him a cake.

Little Miss Muffet always said 'No'.

### **Card 11 – Georgie Porgie**

Georgie Porgie was next to pass by.

He was a friend of Naughty Girl with a Curl.

Georgie Porgie was going to meet Naughty Girl with a Curl.

### **Card 12 – Georgie Porgie and Little Jack Horner**

Georgie Porgie played tricks on the other Nursery Rhyme Land characters.

He had given Little Jack Horner a mud cake full of cottonwool.

Little Jack Horner had tried to eat the cake.

### **Card 13 – Jack**

Little Miss Muffet baked her cake for Jack.

She hoped that the cake would cheer Jack up after his fall down the hill.

It was Jack's birthday.

### **Card 14 – The cake is stolen**

By midday, when the Nursery Rhyme Land characters had walked by the house, Little Miss Muffet knew her cake would be cool enough to put the icing and the candles on it.

She went outside to fetch the cake.

The cake had gone from the table outside the door.

### **Card 15 – Goosey Gander**

Close behind Georgie Porgie strolled Goosey Gander.

Goosey Gander was always hungry because he had to eat so much to stay strong.

He loved cake.

### **Card 16 – Little Miss Muffet**

Little Miss Muffet lived in a pretty little cottage.

The cottage was beside the road into town.

All the Nursery Rhyme Land characters passed her house on their way into town.