

LESSON 55: MAY AND HER BIRD

I PICTURE STUDY • CHARACTER, ACTION & DANGER

• **Observing Details:** Look at May holding her little canary, the open cage on the table, and the sly cat watching from the window.

• **Full Sentence Answers:** Write a complete statement answering every question, stating both who is acting and what is happening.



◆ PICTURE STUDY • MAY AND HER BIRD

Observe May and her pet canary: Notice her gentle smile, the round brass cage, the flowerpot on the sill, and Pussy lurking behind the windowpane.

• WRITE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS IN COMPLETE STATEMENTS:

1. Where is May, and what does she hold in her hand?

2. Do you think she has just fed the bird?

3. What do you think May is saying to her bird?

4. Where is the birdcage, and where will she now put the bird?

5. What is on the window sill?

6. What is May looking at?

7. What would Pussy like to do with the bird?

8. Sentence Synthesis: In one sentence, tell why May will put her canary safely inside the cage.

SELF CHECK Every response is a full statement • Capital letter at start • Period (.) at end.

LESSON 55: MAY AND HER BIRD — ANSWER KEY

CLASSICAL PEDAGOGY & INQUIRY FOCUS

Classic Pedagogical Focus: Picture narrative inquiry and psychological projection. Pupils observe visual storytelling elements: affection between child and pet, domestic setting, and the looming tension of the cat outside. Guide children to write complete answers with appropriate tense and punctuation.

Socratic Classroom Sequence: Discuss the picture with pupils before they write. Ask them to imagine the canary's song and describe why May loves her bird. Have them explain why the cat must not be allowed inside.

• EXEMPLARY ANSWERS & SENTENCE CONSTRUCTION MODELS

• Question 1: Where is May?

Model Answer: May is standing by the table in the room, holding her pet bird.

Teaching Guidance: Encourage pairing location and action.

• Question 2: Has she fed the bird?

Model Answer: Yes, I think May has just fed her little bird with seeds.

Teaching Guidance: Affirmative statement with reason.

• Question 3: What is May saying?

Model Answer: May is saying, 'Sing a sweet song for me, little bird.'

Teaching Guidance: Dialogue or indirect speech formulation.

• Question 4: The cage and placement

Model Answer: The cage is on the table, and May will soon put her bird inside.

Teaching Guidance: Compound sentence detailing location.

• Question 5: What is on the window sill?

Model Answer: A potted plant is sitting on the window sill.

Teaching Guidance: Noun identification.

• Question 6: What is she looking at?

Model Answer: May is looking lovingly at her little pet canary.

Teaching Guidance: Focus of May's gaze.

• Question 7: What would Pussy like to do?

Model Answer: The old cat would like to catch and eat the little bird.

Teaching Guidance: Cat's motive/intent.

• Question 8: Sentence Synthesis

Model Answer: May puts her canary in the cage because the cat wants to catch it.

Teaching Guidance: Causal synthesis using 'because'.

Common Errors to Address: Check that proper nouns (May, Dick, Pussy) are capitalized. Ensure that stories do not become run-on sentences joined by endless 'and's'.