

Miss Bridie Chose a Shovel

K-3

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Story Summary

In 1856 Miss Bridie chose a shovel to take on her journey to America. She could have chosen other things to take with her on the ship that brought her to her new country, but she chose a shovel. Miss Bridie's shovel remains with her through many years, through good times, and through difficult times. As you follow Miss Bridie's life, you will see the important part the shovel she chose played as she grew older.

Objectives

1. The children will develop an appreciation for the difficulties one faces when moving to a new country.
2. The children will develop an appreciation of the relative importance of various possessions.

Before viewing the video

Ask the children if they have ever known anyone who has moved to America from another country. What did they bring with them? Ask them what they would take with them if they moved to another country. What do they think their parents would take? What are some of the things you would do with a shovel? As they view the video, ask the children to try to remember all of the things Miss Bridie does with her shovel.

Questions to ask after viewing the video

1. What could Miss Bridie have chosen to take with her on her trip across America on the sea? What did she choose?
2. Look at the illustration of the shop where she got a job. What kind of shop was it?
3. How did Miss Bridie's shovel help her in the little garden behind the shop?
4. How did Miss Bridie's shovel help her in the winter in the city park?
5. When Miss Bridie got married and moved to her house, how did her shovel help her?
6. Look at the illustration of Miss Bridie near her orchard and field of corn. How did her shovel help her there?
7. Miss Bridie had problems when the rain swelled the creek. How did her shovel help her then?
8. How did the shovel help Miss Bridie in her kitchen?
9. What does Miss Bridie do when she finds her shovel in the ashes of the fire?

10. When Miss Bridie is an older woman, she has sad and happy times. How does her shovel help her during a sad time? How does the shovel help her children's children?

Activities

1. Write a story about something you have that you would bring along if you moved to a new country. How would this help you? What are some of the things you have that you would not need if you made such a move?

2. Develop a list with the class of advantages and difficulties Miss Bridie must have faced during her trip to America and in adapting to life in her new country.

3. Ask each child to select a scene from *Miss Bridie—Chose a Shovel* and draw a picture of it. Display the illustrations so that they tell the story.

4. Ask the children to imagine that Miss Bridie brought something else along with her to America. What could that object be and how could it help her?