

Amelia Bedelia

Grades 1-3

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Expectations

Students will:

- develop independent reading and writing skills.
- be introduced to the humorous writings of Peggy Parish.
- realize that the literal interpretation of some English words and expressions can take on a different meaning than intended.
- develop their own creativity.

Summary of Story

When Mr. and Mrs. Rogers leave their home, Amelia Bedelia is in charge. Her employers leave instructions for Amelia and she carefully follows them. In fact, she follows them too literally.

The list reads:

- Change the towels.
- Dust the furniture.
- Draw the drapes when the sun comes in.
- Put the lights out when you finish in the living room.
- Measure two cups of rice.
- Trim the fat on the steak.
- Dress the chicken.

Amelia misinterprets each one. When the Rogers return, they are shocked to see dusting powder on the furniture, a picture of the curtains, and clothes on the chicken. Amelia Bedelia explains that she just did exactly what the instructions said.

Mrs. Rogers is so angry that she is about to fire Amelia Bedelia. Then, she tastes some of her lemon meringue pie. It is so good that the Rogers decide that she can stay. They learn to say “Undust the furniture” and “Close the drapes”.



Author Biography

Peggy Parish

Peggy Parish was born in Manning, South Carolina on July 14, 1927. After she graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1948, Parish taught English and creative dancing in the Oklahoma panhandle country and third grade in Kentucky before moving to New York City where she taught third grade at the Dalton School. During her teaching years at Dalton she had her first book published in 1962. It was called *My Golden Book of Manners*.

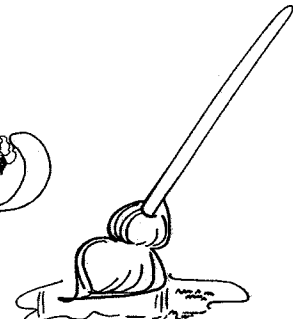
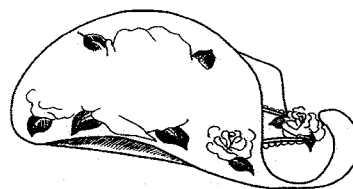
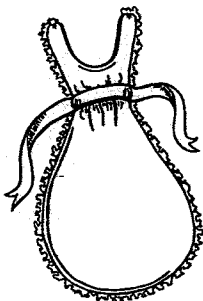
Writing stories for children came naturally to her as children were her life. She never tried to teach anything in her stories because she wrote for fun and to entertain children. Parish also skillfully wrote to challenge a new reader's developing skills.

Amelia Bedelia was the first book in a series by Peggy Parish. Her other books included:

Amelia Bedelia and the Surprise Shower
Come Back Amelia Bedelia
Play Ball, Amelia Bedelia

Parish was also the author of 30 other children's books.

On November 19, 1988 at the age of 61, Peggy Parish died of a ruptured abdominal aneurysm.





Teacher Input Suggestions

NOTE: It is strongly recommended that the teacher read the story and the material in this unit well in advance of implementing them into the reading program. The teacher's knowledge and interest of the story is essential in order to maintain the enthusiasm of the students.

1. List the vocabulary words and their meanings that students may have difficulty with and discuss them with your students. Add any other words that they suggest as they read the book.
2. Display pictures of multiple meaning words around the classroom. For example, eye glasses and drinking glasses.
3. Distribute copies of *Amelia Bedelia* to the students. Have them examine the cover and discuss the title, characters, author and artist. Ask them to make predictions about the story. (Page references in this unit were obtained from the Harpers Collins, 1991 edition.)
4. Display students' artwork done on this unit around the class.
5. Paint a mural of a scene that would be seen in one of the chapters of *Amelia Bedelia*.
6. Bake and taste lemon meringue pie.
7. Discuss the role of house servants and employer-employee relationships.

