Monday 1st June 2020

Katie Morag Delivers the Mail

Stories by the same author — Mairi Hedderwick
Over the next few weeks we are going to read some Katie Morag books written by Mairi Hedderwick.

Mairi was born on 2\textsuperscript{nd} May 1939 in Scotland.

She published her first book in the series in 1984 – ‘Katie Morag Delivers the Mail’.

The Katie Morag books are set on the fictional Isle of Struay (Scotland).

You can meet the main character in the books and find out a bit more about the island by watching this 5 minute clip. 
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lx6oyVgUDbc
Today I would like you to read some of the book and answer questions about the story. Please answer the questions in your exercise book. We will continue to look at this book over the next few of days.
Wednesdays were always hectic on the Isle of Struay, for that was the day that the boat brought mail and provisions from the mainland.
One particular Wednesday was worse than usual, since baby Liam was cutting his first tooth and both Mr and Mrs McColl were in a bad mood.

“All right, all right,” said Mrs McColl in exasperation. “I’ll take Liam upstairs to quieten him down! Katie Morag, you take the mail to the houses across the Bay. There are five parcels – one for each house. The one with the red label is for Grannie.”
Pleased to escape, Katie Morag set off. She loved any excuse to visit her Grannie, who lived all alone in the very last house on the other side of the Bay.

But it was a hot day, and Katie Morag had just stopped for a moment to paddle in a pool beneath the Redburn Bridge, when suddenly – splash! – she slipped on a slithery stone and fell into the water, mailbag and all.
Comprehension Questions
Answer in your book

1. Which day does the boat bring the mail and provisions?

☐ Saturday    ☐ Wednesday

☐ Monday    ☐ Friday
2. Why did Katie Morag have to deliver the mail?

3. “All right, all right,” said Mrs McColl in exasperation.

What does the word ‘exasperation’ mean? Look in a dictionary and write down the definition.

4. How did the letters get wet?

- It started to rain.
- They blew into the sea.
- She slipped on a stone and fell in the river.
- She threw them in the river.
“Oh, dear! Oh, dear!” wailed Katie Morag looking at the five soggy parcels. “All the addresses are smudged and I won’t know which parcel is for which house now!”

Only Grannie’s parcel was still recognizable by its red label.
Then, because she was so frightened and ashamed, Katie Morag did a silly thing. She ran the rest of the way to the other side of the Bay and threw a
parcel – any parcel, except the red-labelled one – on to the doorstep of each of the first four houses. Nobody saw her. Still sobbing, she ran on to Grannie’s.
Comprehension Questions Continued

5. Find two words in the text to describe how Katie Morag is feeling.

6. Katie Morag has run to her Grannie’s house. What do you think might happen next?
Tuesday 2nd June 2020

Katie Morag Delivers the Mail

Stories by the same author – Mairi Hedderwick
“Well, this is a fine boozich you’ve got yourself into, Katie Morag,” said Grannie, when Katie Morag had explained what she had done. “Still at least you’ve given me the right parcel – it’s got the spare part for the tractor that I’ve been waiting for. I’ll go and get the old grey lady going, while you dry yourself up. Then you can try and sort the whole muddle out.”
Grannie had her head under the bonnet of the tractor for a long time. Occasionally, Katie Morag heard muffled words of anger and she thought of the angry words waiting for her at home...

Then, suddenly, with a cough of black smoke, the tractor stuttered into life and they set off to go round each of the four houses in turn.
The first house belonged to the Lady Artist. She had been expecting tiny, thin brushes for her miniature paintings, but the parcel Katie Morag had left on her doorstep contained two enormous brushes. “They’re bigger than my painting boards!” she said in disgust.
The second house was rented by the Holiday People. They had ordered fishing hooks from a sports catalogue, but their parcel had been full of garden seeds.

“We can’t catch fish with daisies and lettuces!” they complained.
At the third house, Mr MacMaster was standing by a big barrel of whitewash, holding the Lady Artist’s paint brushes.

“How can I paint my walls with these fiddling little things?” he asked.
In the fourth house lived Mrs Bayview. “That stupid shop on the mainland! Where are my seeds? Flowers won’t grow out of these,” she said crossly, waving a packet of fishing hooks in the air.
1. What did the holiday people expect? What did they get instead?

2. Mrs Bayview wasn’t very happy. How do we know that she wasn’t happy? Think of 2 reasons. (Look at the text and the picture)
After much trundling back and forth, Katie Morag finally managed to collect and deliver all the right things to all the right people. Everyone smiled and waved and said, “Thank you very much.”
By now it was getting dark. Katie Morag thought of the long journey home. She would be very late and her parents were so bad-tempered these days on account of Liam’s noisy teething.

“Grannie, would you like to come back for tea?” she asked.
Katie Morag half hid behind Grannie as they walked in the kitchen door but, to her surprise, everyone was smiling. Liam had cut his tooth at last and all was calm.
“Thank you for helping out today, Katie Morag,” said Mrs McColl. “Isn’t she good, Grannie?”

“Och aye,” said Grannie with a smile as she looked at Katie Morag. “She’s very good at sorting things out, is our Katie Morag.” And she said no more.
3. Did Grannie Island really think that Katie Morag was good at sorting things out?

Why?

4. Draw a picture of Katie Morag in your book. Write down things that you know about her around your picture.

E.g.

She has a brother called Liam
Wednesday 3rd June 2020

Katie Morag Delivers the Mail

Stories by the same author – Mairi Hedderwick
Katie Morag Delivers the Mail

Rewrite the sentences and underline the adjectives.

1. Wednesdays were always hectic on Struay.
2. The one with the red labels on is for Grannie.
4. There were five soggy parcels.
5. Katie Morag was frightened and ashamed.
6. The lady artist had been expecting tiny, thin brushes.
Up-levelling a sentence

The sentence below is very boring. Write it out again in your book but this time include an adjective and a conjunction (e.g. and, so, but, because) to extend the sentence.

The boat brought the mail.
Katie Morag Delivers the Mail

Match the halves of the sentences.

1. The boat came to Struay
2. Baby Liam was cutting
3. There were five parcels
4. Grannie’s parcel
5. Katie Morag fell
6. All the labels

had a red label. on Wednesdays. were soggy.
in the pool. for Katie Morag to deliver.
his first tooth.
Thursday 4th June 2020

Katie Morag Delivers the Mail

Stories by the same author – Mairi Hedderwick
Katie Morag Delivers the Mail

wanted

1. The Lady Artist wanted _____________.
2. The Holiday People wanted _____________.
3. Mr McMaster wanted _____________.
4. Mrs Bayview wanted _____________.

fish hooks. big brushes. seeds. small brushes
Research time...

Over the next few weeks we are going to be reading books by Mairi Hedderwick. It is interesting to find out about an author and find out what inspired them to write books.

Task
Research Mairi Hedderwick and create a fact sheet about her in your exercise book.

Help
You can look on here

You could find out how many Katie Morag books she has written and write them down.

Friday 5th June 2020

Katie Morag and the Two Grandmothers

Stories by the same author – Mairi Hedderwick
Complete this activity in your book

Today we are going to read the first few pages from the book – Katie Morag and the Two Grandmothers. We are going to think carefully about the characters and find out what is the same and what is different about them.

We are going to start to note down things that we know about the characters. In your book, split the page in half and draw or write the names of the characters at the top of each column.

E.g.

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One sunny Wednesday morning Mrs McColl woke Katie Morag early.
“Hurry up, now!” she said, drawing back the curtains. “Here comes the boat. Granma Mainland will be here soon and you’ve still got this room to tidy for her.”

Granma Mainland lived far away in the big city. She was coming to stay with them for a holiday.
Katie Morag went with her other grandmother, Grannie Island, who lived just across the Bay, to meet the boat.

“My, you’re still a smart wee Bobby Dazzler,” said Neilly Beag, as he helped Granma Mainland down.

Grannie Island revved the engine very loudly. BUROOM ... BUROOM ... BUROOM ...
Katie Morag and the Two Grandmothers
Katie Morag watched, fascinated, as Granma Mainland unpacked.

“Do you like this new hat I’ve brought for Show Day, Katie Morag?” Granma Mainland asked.

“Och, her and her fancy ways!” muttered Grannie Island to herself.
You should have a couple of things written down about the two characters after reading the first few pages.

Include in your notes what the characters look like.

We will find out more about the characters next week when we will continue to read the story.