

**Missouri Assessment Program  
Spring 2006**

**Communication Arts**

**Released Items**

**Grade 3**

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**Directions**

This is a story about two sisters who live together. Read the story. Then answer Numbers 1 through 6.

# Mary Is Always Right

by Bonnie Highsmith Taylor

Once there were two sisters. Hannah was the older sister. Mary was the younger sister. Hannah was much older. And Mary was much younger.

They lived in a cottage beside the road.

They were very poor, but they were happy.

Mary thought Hannah was the best sister in the world. She was a wonderful cook. She kept the cottage neat and clean. And she took such good care of Mary.

Hannah thought Mary was the best sister in the world. She was always jolly. And she was so very clever. No matter what Mary did, Hannah thought it was right.

As time went by, they grew poorer and poorer. They were so poor that all they had left in the world was their horse. Their old cow and pig had died. They had eaten their ducks.

One day, Hannah said, "Today is market day. Take the horse and sell him. Or trade him for something useful."

market day = a day on which people gather at an open public space to buy and sell things

"What do you have in mind?" Mary asked.

"Whatever you do will be right," said Hannah.

Off to town went Mary, riding on the horse.

There were many other people on their way to market. A young man was leading a small goat.

"That's a fine goat," said Mary. "Would you care to trade it for my horse?"

"Yes, I would," answered the young man, for anyone knew a horse was better than a goat.

"My sister will be pleased to have a goat to milk," said Mary.

She started back home.

She met a woman who was carrying a fat, gray goose.

“My sister would like that goose,” Mary said. “She could make a feather pillow. And she could cook us a fine goose dinner. Would you trade it for this goat?”

“But of course,” said the woman, for anyone knew a goat was better than a goose.

Next she met a little girl carrying a red hen.

“Oh, what a pretty little hen,” said Mary. “If my sister had that little hen she would have all the eggs she needed. She could make fine cakes and puddings.”

“I’ll trade you for your goose,” said the little girl.

The trade was made. The little girl skipped off, carrying the goose.

Mary met a small boy. He was carrying a big sack over his shoulder. The boy was crying.

“What is wrong?” asked Mary. “And what have you in the sack?”

“Apples,” sniffled the boy. “Old apples. All that was left on the ground after our neighbor finished his picking. Maybe I can sell them for a few pennies. My mother is very ill . . .” The boy began to cry harder than ever.

sniffled = talked with a stuffed-up nose

“There, there,” said Mary. “Give me the apples and take this little hen. Her eggs will be good for your mother.”

Off ran the boy, carrying the little red hen under his arm.

When Mary got home, she found Hannah in the cottage spinning wool into yarn on a spinning wheel.

“What did you trade the horse for, sister?” asked Hannah.

“For a goat,” Mary answered.

“Oh, fine,” cried Hannah. “A goat will give us milk.”

“But I traded the goat for a goose,” Mary said.



*Go On* ►

“Well, a goose is good,” said Hannah. “We can bake it and make a pillow with the feathers.”

“But sister,” said Mary. “I traded the goose for a hen.”

“Oh, the hen will lay eggs!” exclaimed Hannah. “I can make cakes and puddings.”

“Dear sister,” said Mary. “I met a boy whose mother was very ill. I traded the hen for his sack of apples. The little hen’s eggs will be good for his mother.”

“How kind you are,” said Hannah. She opened the sack of apples.

“Oh, Mary,” she sighed. “These are not good apples. They are nearly rotten. What can we do with them?”

cider = a kind of juice pressed from fruits

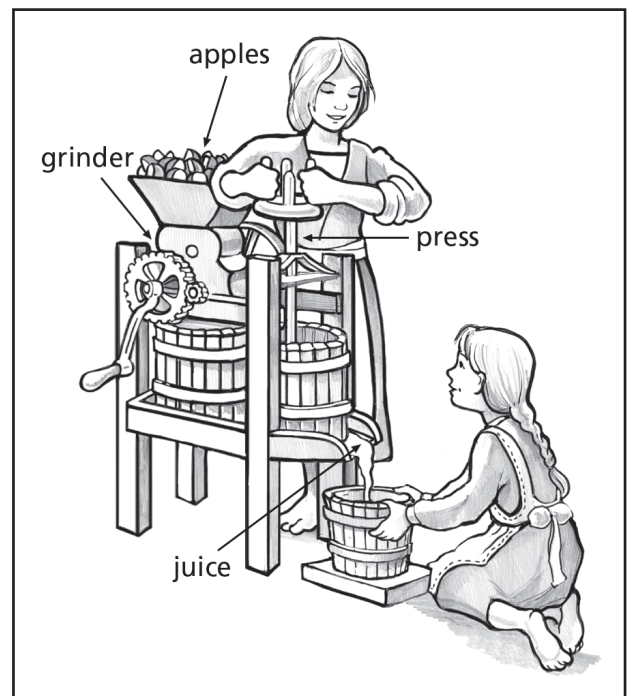
Mary smiled. “We will make apple cider. We will sell it at market. We will plant the seeds and grow a fine orchard. We will no longer be poor.”

orchard = an area of land planted with fruit trees

“Of course!” cried Hannah. “Oh Mary, you are always right!”

## Directions for Making Hannah’s Apple Cider

1. Wash the apples.
2. Cut the apples in half with a knife to get out the seeds.
3. Chop up the apples into little pieces (or grind in a grinder).
4. Use two pieces of wood (or an apple press) to squeeze the apples until the juice comes out.
5. Use a bucket to collect the juice.
6. Store the apple juice in a wooden barrel until market day.



**1** Which of these tells the order of the story “Mary Is Always Right”?

- Hannah’s and Mary’s lives are described. Then the story tells the events of one day in their lives.
- Directions for an activity are given. Then the story tells how Hannah and Mary do the activity.
- The story starts when Hannah and Mary are young and describes their lives until the present.
- The story starts at the beginning of a week in Hannah’s and Mary’s lives and ends at the end of the week.

**2** Why is having old apples a problem for the boy?

- The boy’s mother bakes fresh apple pies.
- The boy’s mother is too sick to drink apple cider.
- The boy had to pick the apples up off the ground.
- The boy might only get a few pennies for the apples.

**3** What are two ways the small boy’s problem and Mary’s problem are alike?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Go On ►

- 4** In what way do you think Hannah's and Mary's lives will be different after they sell the cider and plant the apple seeds? Explain why you think so, using information from the story.

How their lives will be different: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Explain why: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 5** Imagine you are going to make Hannah's apple cider. What are two things you will need? Explain how you will use each. Use information from the apple cider directions to complete the chart.

### Making Hannah's Apple Cider

What I will need	How I will use it
1. Apples	1. I will get the juice from the apples.
2. _____	2. _____ _____
3. _____	3. _____ _____





# WRITING

## Directions

Now you will write a paper in response to a writing prompt. First, read the prompt in the box below.

Then use the separate paper your teacher has given you for your prewriting activity (such as brainstorming, listing, freewriting, clustering, mapping, or drawing).

After you finish your prewriting activity, write your first draft on the separate paper your teacher has given you. Look back at your prewriting activity for ideas.

## Writing Prompt

“Mary Is Always Right” is about trading. Write a story about two people who make a trade.

*Go On* ►

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# REVISED COPY

## Directions

Now you have time to revise your draft. Reread your draft and think about the Writer's Checklist below. Check every box that makes a true statement about your draft.

## Writer's Checklist



- My paper has a beginning, a middle, and an end.
- My paper stays on the topic.
- My paper uses details and examples that support the topic.
- My paper has complete sentences.
- My paper includes correct punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

For every box you did not check, make the needed changes on your draft before you write your revised copy on Pages 5 through 10.











