



Meggy was contemplating the terrible situation she found herself in when, with a slam of the big wooden door, Roger dashed into the room.

So he had come back. Meggy thought he looked like a puppy, all bounce and no brains. She was relieved and mightily hungry, but she remained aloof and said, "I thought I heard the door open and a mighty wind blow in. What do you want, puppy?"

"See what I have brought, fresh from the larder of Mistress Grimm." He unfolded a cloth to reveal a hunk of bread and a wedge of yellow cheese, and handed her a piece of each.

"I had to draw a sword and fight a vicious rat for the cheese, but I beat him and here it be." Not knowing whether he was jesting or not, Meggy inspected the cheese for the marks of a rat's teeth.

The boy fetched a mug from the windowsill. "You must drink from this, I fear. The master has melted all the metal in the house." That explained the lack of pots, pothooks and a spit, Meggy thought, but why would he do so?

The boy poured some of the ale from his tankard into Meggy's mug. "Have you seen him this day?" he asked, sitting across from her at the table. She shook her head but said naught, her mouth stuffed with bread and chewing hastily.

"It is a poor welcome he has given you," the boy said, "But as his servant you will grow accustomed to his ways. Sometimes he is as frosty as a winter's night though he wil not scold or beat you much."

"He wants me to be a servant?" Meggy trembled with anger and disappointment, "I cannot be a servant! My legs are crooked and walking pains me. I go seldom among strangers for they spit and curse at me."

Nettled by the idea she might serve her father, she struggled to her feet, thrust her nose in the air and said. "Go and tell your master that I have left his house and will trouble him no more!"

It was bravely spoken but she was fearful about what would become of her outside this house at the Sign of the Sun. Frustrated, she sat down again and frowned at Roger.

"Why are you not afraid of me?" she asked, "Have you no wits?"

He was silent for a moment then said, "In truth, I think you as friendly as a sack of wild cats but far too small to be dangerous."

Meggy pounded the floor with one of her sticks, "Be not foolish, servant boy. I be most menacing, a fearsome cripple who delights in frightening people!"

"I am not afraid. Does this annoy you?"

It did. It also pleased her.

	TASK					
<b>TUESDAY</b> <i>Vocabulary development and Familiarisation</i>	<p>Skim the text. Can you quickly find the following words?</p> <table><tr><td><i>contemplate</i></td><td><i>aloof</i></td><td><i>scold</i></td><td><i>seldom</i></td><td><i>menacing</i></td></tr></table> <p>Write down each word followed by its definition and at least one synonym.</p> <p>Can you write sentences that include these words?</p>	<i>contemplate</i>	<i>aloof</i>	<i>scold</i>	<i>seldom</i>	<i>menacing</i>
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<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <i>Word Attack</i>	<p>Answer the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Meggy describes Roger as ‘<i>a puppy, all bounce and no brains</i>’. Write what she means by this in your own words.</li><li>2. Roger uses a simile to describe Master Ambrose. What is it and what does it suggest about his attitude towards people?</li><li>3. Explain what you think ‘<i>nettled</i>’ means.</li><li>4. Roger says Meggy is ‘<i>as friendly as a sack of wild cats</i>’. Is he saying she is or isn’t friendly? Explain your answer.</li></ol>					
<b>FRIDAY</b> <i>Focused Comprehension Skills</i>	<p>Answer the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Does Roger like Meggy? Find evidence from the text for your answer.</li><li>2. When Meggy finds out her father wanted her to be his servant, why do you think she ‘<i>trembled with anger and disappointment</i>’?</li><li>3. Meggy is described as frustrated at one point. Why was she feeling like that?</li><li>4. Why do you think Meggy is secretly pleased Roger isn’t afraid of her?</li></ol>					