

Monday 23rd March 2020 - *Oliver Hyde's Dishcloth concert*

Guided reading – WALT make prediction about a story.

WALT infer about information in a text

Look at the title of the reading text: Oliver Hyde's Dishcloth concert

Can you guess what this story might be about?

This is an unusual title- why do you think the author has chosen to call it this?

Read part 1 (PLEASE DO NOT READ FURTHER). Are there any words you don't understand? (errand, tomb, fellow) – use a dictionary (use an online one if you don't have a dictionary at home) to write a definition about them in your books.

OLIVER HYDE'S DISHCLOTH CONCERT

Richard Kennedy

Now maybe it's sad and maybe it's spooky, but there was a man who lived just out of town on a scrubby farm and no one had seen his face for years. If he was outside working, he kept his hat pulled down and his collar turned up, and if anyone approached him he ran up the hill to his house and shut himself inside. He left notes pinned to his door for a brave errand boy who brought him supplies from town. The people asked the boy what he heard up there in that tomblike house when he collected the notes and delivered the supplies. "Darkness and quietness," said the boy. "I hear darkness and quietness." The people nodded and looked at the boy. "Aren't you afraid?" The boy bit his lip. "A fellow has to make a living," he said.

Questions -

1. From reading part 1, which country, and what time period do you think this story is set in?
2. What do we know about this man from reading page 43?
3. What could have happened to him to make him the way he is? Predict what will happen next.

Read part 2-

Sometimes the children would come out of town and sing a little song up at the house and then run away. They sang:

The beautiful bride of Oliver Hyde,
Fell down dead on the mountainside.

Yes, it was true. The man was full of grief and bitterness. He was Oliver Hyde, and his young bride's wagon had been washed into a canyon by a mudslide and it killed her, horse and all. But that was years ago. The children sang some more:

Oliver Hyde is a strange old man,
He sticks his head in a coffee can,
And hides his face when there's folks about,
He's outside in, and he's inside out.

It was too bad. Oliver used to have many friends, and he played the fastest and sweetest fiddle in the county. And for the few short weeks he was married his playing was sweeter than ever. But on the day his wife was buried he busted his fiddle across a porch post, and now he sat cold, dark, and quiet on his little hill. No one had visited him for years. There was a reason. You shall see.

One day a man came from the town and walked up the hill toward Oliver's house. He was carrying a fiddle case. Two or three times he stopped and looked up at the house and shook his head, as if trying to free himself from a ghost, and continued on. He arrived at the porch steps. All the window shades were pulled down and it was dead quiet inside. The three porch steps creaked like

Questions –

1. What happened to Oliver to make him the way he is?
2. What is a fiddle? Why do you think the children sing this rhyme about him?
3. Why do you think all of Oliver's friends stayed away and nobody visited him anymore?
4. This section ends by saying 'there was a reason. You shall see.' Why has the author used this at the end of this part?



A fiddle