

Comprehension Guide by Ginny Walls

Designed by Ned Bustard





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How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help you study, understand and enjoy *Stuart Little*. You might ask if a guide is really necessary to read a book. Is the student not just working to improve reading skills while being taught to enjoy reading a book? Certainly it is the case that the more a child reads, the more he should improve his skills, but quantity is not the only issue. Once a child has received adequate phonetic training he should learn how to read a book. Most educators using this guide will be teaching children in the grammar stage, generally understood to be during the elementary years in a classical education. (For a thorough understanding of classical Christian education we recommend reading Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning or The Case for Classical Christian Education, both by Douglas Wilson.) The basic goals of reading in the grammar stage are as follows:

The student should be able to:

- Fluently read a given selection orally.
- 2. Show an increased desire for reading.
- Show comprehension on a literal and inferential level.
- Demonstrate an increased vocabulary.
- Identify basic biblical values in the literature being read.
- 6. Identify various styles (myths, poems, fantasy, fiction, nonfiction, etc.)

Answers to the questions are found in the back of the guide. Although the answers in the guide appear in an abbreviated form, the students' answers should be in complete sentences, and they should restate the question in their answer.

Example:

Question: How tall was Stuart when he

arrived?

Answer: Stuart was two inches tall when

he arrived.

Such writing practice trains the student to answer thoroughly, completely and with proper grammar. Another reason is to encourage integration. We want students to understand that how they write something is as important as what they write.

You may wonder how to grade the student's work in this guide. Keep it simple. Unless otherwise indicated you should assume that each question is worth five points.

Chapter 1—In the Drain

1.	What were Stuart Little's parents' names?
2.	How tall was Stuart when he arrived?
3.	In what ways did Stuart act like a mouse?
4.	What did his parents use to make a bed small enough for their new arrival?
5.	In what way was Stuart Little unlike other newborns?
6.	Where did the Littles live?
7.	What was Stuart's brother's name?

Chapter 1, Page 2

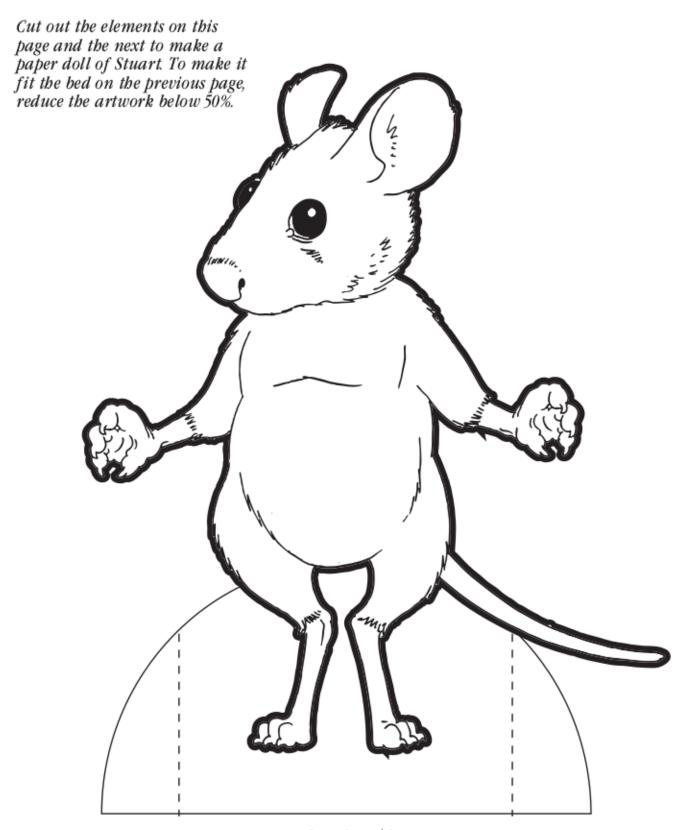
8.	How did his brother suggest they retrieve the ring from the drain?			
9.	When this idea didn't work, what did they do?			
10	When Mr. Little pulled Stuart out of the drain, where was the ring?			

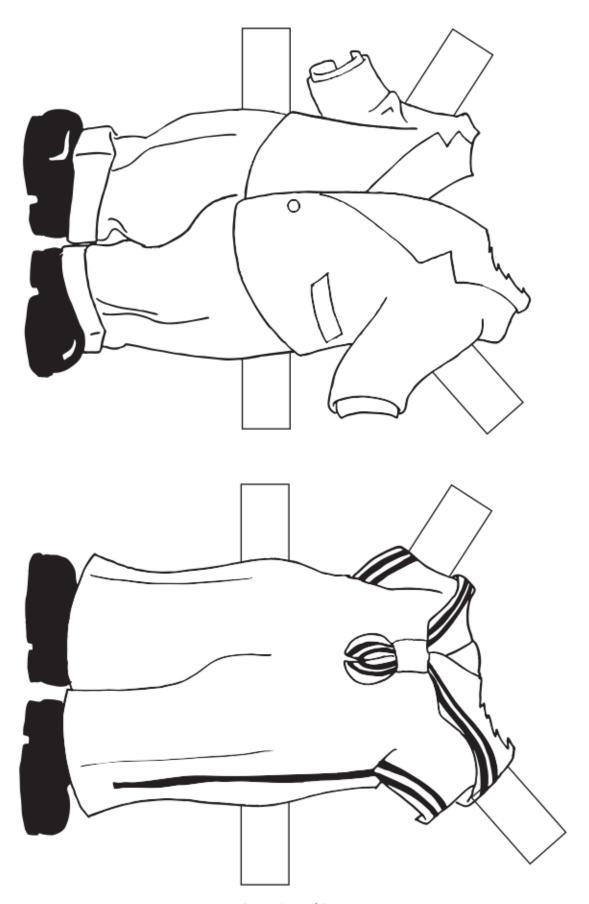


Project 1—A Bed for a Mouse

Supplies pencil scissors empty cereal box 4 clothespins	FOLD	Instructions Create a Stuart-sized bed by tracing the template onto the blank side of a cereal box. Slide the clothespins into the X's on all four corners to create the bedposts of his miniature bed.
FOLD		FOLD
	EOLD FOLD	Finish the creation with your own imagination for pillow and blankets for the Stuart Little doll on the next page.

STUART LITTLE Project 2—Paper Doll





Stuart Little / 9

Project 2—Ring Picking Game

Supplies

empty half-gallon milk carton
paper clip
pop tops from soda bottles or soup cans
12" string or yarn

Directions

Unfold the paper clip into a hook shape and attach to the yarn. Place pop tops in the milk carton. Dangle the string into the carton until you snag one of the "rings." Score one point for each ring captured.

Chapter 2—Home Problems

1.	What game was a favorite of the Little family?
2.	How was Stuart involved?
3.	What instrument did the Littles have in their living room?
4.	What was wrong with this instrument?
5.	Who was disturbed by the problem and when?
6.	What was the remedy?
7.	How was Stuart affected by his new task?

Chapter 2, Page 2

8.	What did Mr. Little say they should not reference in conversation?
9.	How was the popular Christmas story, <i>The Night Before Christmas</i> , altered?
10.	What was Mr. Little's biggest concern about their pantry?



Project—Ping-Pong Volleyball

Supplies

ping-pong ball tabletop

Directions

Place the ping-pong ball in the center of the table. With a person, or several people on each side of the table, try to blow the ping-pong ball off the edge of the opponent's side. No hands please!

