

CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

Jenny beats those boring blues

By Jandaan Manternach
NC News Service

Jenny was bored. She didn't remember just when it began. But it had been going on for at least three months.

"How was school today?" Jenny's mother asked every afternoon. "Boring!" was always Jenny's answer.

No matter what was planned for Saturday, Jenny found it boring.

"How was the ball game?" Jenny's twin brother asked. "It was boring!" Jenny said in a voice almost too soft to hear.

"Nothing new ever happens to me," she complained to her aunt.

Jenny got up at 7 on school mornings. She gulped cereal for breakfast. She waited for the school bus and rode to school. She liked her teachers but wasn't excited about her classes. She rode the bus back home after school. She played for an hour

with her friend. She ate dinner and did her homework. Sometimes she watched TV. Then she went to bed.

Each day was pretty much the same as the last. Weekends were even worse. Jenny did her chores around the house. She played with her friends. She watched TV.

"I'm bored!" Jenny kept telling her mother. "Bored! Bored! Bored!"

Jenny's parents were worried. "Jenny has so little interest in anything," her father said. "I'm worried."

Her worried parents asked each other, "What should we do?"

While her parents were worrying, Jenny was in her room. But all at once she had an idea. "I know what I'll do," she thought to herself. "I'll teach smaller children to read!"

Jenny ran to tell her parents. "Teach children to read?" her mother said.

"How can you do that?" her father asked.

"I'll get them together after school," Jenny said. "I'll use some of my picture books for a start. I'll read stories to them."

Jenny was more excited than she had been in three months. Her parents were excited too.

"Then maybe I'll figure out how to use my computer to help them learn to read," Jenny thought out loud. "It would be exciting. I know I can do it."

Jenny began the next afternoon. She told some of her neighbors what she wanted to do. Four younger children showed up for her first class. She set up her little school in the basement. The children loved it. And Jenny did too.

"Jenny's a different girl," her mother said a couple of weeks later.

"She sure isn't bored any more," her father replied.

"Bored?" Jenny answered her aunt. "Some things are still boring, but I'm not bored any more. I'm a teacher. I'm a helper now."

(Ms. Manternach is the author of catechetical works, Scripture stories and original stories for children.)



BOR-R-R-RING

Rearrange the letters in the word "boredom" and see how many new words you can think of. Here are some examples: more red, bed.

1. See how many things that begin with the letter 'B' you and a friend can find in your bedroom or kitchen.

(there are at least 18)



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HOW ABOUT YOU?

Have you ever been bored, like Jenny? What did you do to stop being bored?

Children's Reading Corner

"Jenny's Cat" is a story by Miska Miles. Jenny has just moved with her parents to a new town. She feels like nothing is right in the new place and she is lonely and bored. She complains to her mother who assures her that things will get better. And they do when a stray cat comes along. Now Jenny has someone to play with and take care of each day. When she is threatened with losing her pet, she takes matters into her own hands. This is a sensitive, appealing story. (Bantam Books, 666 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10103. 1982. Paperback, \$1.75.)

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35 East Wacker Drive • Room 400 • Chicago, Illinois 60601