

C is for Cottage

Assignment 1

- This week students will go over the material found in Lesson 1, which includes Christina Rossetti’s poem “Merry Little Alice.” If you have time this week, you look at more selections by Christina Rossetti like “Merry Little Alice,” which was taken from *Song-Song*, the same volume of poetry from which “Merry Little Alice” was taken.

After students have answered the multiple choice questions, parents may lead a discussion of the two passages, focusing on Christina Rossetti’s poem.

Both reading selections deal with the nature of children, particularly on the observation that they are content with little. While the first reading selection, “The Train Ride,” shows innocent contentment of a baby in her mother’s arms, Christina Rossetti’s poem shows the care-free contentment of a young country girl. You can listen to one of **Christina Rossetti’s poems set to beautiful classical music (optional)**.

- Complete all of the material found in Lesson 1. The Lesson is found on the assignment page just in case you do not yet have your books.
- *Handwriting exercises:* There will be a lesson every week. This week’s lesson (Lesson 1) will focus on **the swing-up connection**. (Click on hyperlink to see examples of the swing-up connection—video 1.) If the video does not work, enter the page through the C is for Cottage assignment page.
- *Poetry Memorization:* memorize stanza one of the three-stanza poem by Edna St. Vincent Millay in the appendix of your textbook. The poem concerns the enjoyment and excitement of life but also the resignation that there will be a time when our life ends.
- *Phonics:* Students should memorize the the phonics words in the lesson and complete the first week of dictation exercises, which will appear in the assignment sheet every week.



DICTATION FOR LESSON 1

Parents should go over the grammar and punctuation section on end marks before completing the dictation exercises. Before beginning the dictation, students should be reminded *to begin every sentence with a capital*. To help students distinguish between sentences requiring an exclamation point as an end mark from the those requiring a period, those giving the dictation should intonate properly. Additional note: the word *but* (when used as a coordinating conjunction, as in the following sentences) always requires a comma before it.

EXERCISE A

1. Was his skin rough from the fall?
2. Did she laugh at his joke?
3. Dan said that the trough had hay.
4. Her laughter was ringing in the hall.
5. Tim is tough, but he has had enough!

EXERCISE B

1. Did Sam and Lily cough?
2. Has it rained enough?
3. They coughed, but they are not sick.
4. We had a laugh over it.
5. Jan said that we have had enough rain.