

Year 6 Literacy Homework

Due in Thursday 5th December 2019

Read the following poem, 'Sick' by Shel Silverstein, and answer the questions on the following page. Make sure you write in full-sentence answers.

"I cannot go to school today,"
Said little Peggy Ann McKay.
"I have the measles and the mumps,
A gash, a rash and purple bumps.
My mouth is wet, my throat is dry,
I'm going blind in my right eye.
My tonsils are as big as rocks,
I've counted sixteen chicken pox
And there's one more—that's seventeen,
And don't you think my face looks green?
My leg is cut—my eyes are blue—
It might be instamatic flu.
I cough and sneeze and gasp and choke,
I'm sure that my left leg is broke—
My hip hurts when I move my chin,
My belly button's caving in,
My back is wrenched, my ankle's sprained,
My 'pendix pains each time it rains.
My nose is cold, my toes are numb.
I have a sliver in my thumb.
My neck is stiff, my voice is weak,
I hardly whisper when I speak.
My tongue is filling up my mouth,
I think my hair is falling out.
My elbow's bent, my spine ain't straight,
My temperature is one-o-eight.
My brain is shrunk, I cannot hear,
There is a hole inside my ear.
I have a hangnail, and my heart is—what?
What's that? What's that you say?
You say today is. . .Saturday?
G'bye, I'm going out to play!"

1. What is this poem about?
2. Which eye does Peggy claim she is going blind in?
3. What does Peggy claim is wrong with her left leg?
4. What temperature does Peggy think she has?
5. What body part do you think Peggy is referring to when she says “pendix”?
6. Why have inverted commas been used at the start and end of this poem?
7. Why has an apostrophe been used in the word “elbow’s”?
8. How many questions does Peggy ask in the course of this poem?
9. Altogether, how many different problems does Peggy think that she has? (To the nearest 5!)
10. Have you ever felt like Peggy did? What happened?