

Terrible Twos

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Henry's sister, Harriet, was two years old. His parents often told other people that Harriet was in her 'terrible twos.' Henry didn't really understand what that meant. Usually, Harriet was great. She was cute. She could run and walk and talk some. She took her naps and ate her meals.

So why would his parents call her terrible? It seemed mean.

Henry played with her most days. He liked to play with robots, but she liked to play with pots and pans. He didn't know why she liked pots and pans, but she sure did. She liked to put stuff in them and then take it back out. She could do it for an hour and not get bored. So he wouldn't get too tired of it, he had her put his robots in the pans so they could hide and pretend they were hiding. It wasn't as fun as playing with his friends, but it wasn't terrible.

At lunch, he ate with his sister. She was messy. She didn't like to dip her grilled cheese in tomato soup, either, which was weird. It was weird, but it wasn't terrible.

Then it was nap time. His little sister snored a little bit sometimes, and occasionally she drooled on her pillow. That was gross, but it wasn't terrible. This whole terrible twos thing was very strange, Henry decided.

At night time, Harriet brushed her teeth with some help from mom. Then she got into her pajamas and hugged everyone goodnight. There wasn't anything terrible about that, even if he didn't like hugs very much.

Finally, he asked his parents about the terrible twos. "Why is Harriet terrible?"

"What?" His parents were both shocked.

Henry crossed his arms and frowned. "You say she's in her terrible twos."

"A lot of kids her age have trouble behaving. They have really bad tantrums." Dad explained.

"Harriet doesn't." Henry protested.

"She doesn't often. She is very well behaved." Father agreed.

He still didn't understand. "So why do you tell people she's in her terrible twos?"

Mom smiled. "Anyone who knows Harriet knows that we are joking. You and your sister are both great kids."

Henry smiled. It was nice to know that Harriet wasn't terrible after all.



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is the name of Henry's sister?
 - A. Henrietta
 - B. Harry
 - C. Harriet
 - D. Hershey

2. What is Henry confused about?
 - A. He doesn't know why his parents said Harriet was terrible.
 - B. He doesn't know his multiplication facts.
 - C. He doesn't know how to play with his sister properly.
 - D. He doesn't know how to do his homework.

3. Which of these does Henry NOT do with his sister?
 - A. play together
 - B. eat lunch together
 - C. take naps together
 - D. practice wrestling together

4. What does Henry finally do when he can't understand why his sister is terrible?
 - A. He cries.
 - B. He asks his parents.
 - C. He calls grandma.
 - D. He gives up and forgets it.

5. How does Henry feel when he finally hears the answer?
 - A. Sad
 - B. Angry
 - C. Relieved
 - D. Confused

Terrible Twos – Answer Key

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3. Which of these does Henry NOT do with his sister during the day?
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