Correcting the Mock Turtle



Find the familiar school subjects hidden in the Mock Turtle’s strange words.

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

A Find the ordinary words

Write the ordinary form. For 2–4, listen to the sound of each word: Carroll deliberately changes familiar school subjects for comic effect.

01 Educations

“We had a good _____.” (singular noun)

_____

02 Reeling

_____

03 Writhing

_____

04 Drawling

_____

B What are the branches of arithmetic?

Name the four basic operations. Match each strange word to the operation shown in its example. You may use a dictionary or search online.

05	Ambition	7 + 5 = 12	_____
06	Distraction	12 − 5 = 7	_____
07	Uglification	3 × 4 = 12	_____
08	Derision	12 ÷ 3 = 4	_____

Reading link: “The Mock Turtle’s Story”, Chapter 9. Illustrations by John Tenniel.

C More subjects from his school

Optional challenge: uncover four more ordinary subjects or activities.

09 Mystery _____

10 Seaography _____

11 Stretching _____

12 Fainting in Coils _____

D Why are the words funny?

13. Choose Reeling, Writhing, or Drawling. What does the strange word actually mean? Explain how it differs from the ordinary school subject.

_____

_____

_____

14. Why did they call their teacher “Tortoise”? Say “tortoise” and “taught us” aloud. Explain the joke.

_____

_____

_____



FROM CROQUET TO THE CLASSROOM

In Chapter 8, Wonderland changes the ordinary rules of a game. In Chapter 9, the Mock Turtle changes the names of ordinary lessons.

Optional: invent a funny name for one of your school subjects. Write the real subject beside it.

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