

# Old Mother West Wind

*Thornton Burgess loved nature and liked to write about how beautiful it is. He wrote Old Mother West Wind in 1910. The book has many stories about interesting characters, including Peter Rabbit, Jimmy Skunk, and of course, Old Mother West Wind, who is the wind that blows from the west. Below is a passage from the book about one of her children.*

## Old Mother West Wind

### Chapter V: The Willful Little Breeze

Old Mother West Wind was tired—tired and just a wee bit cross—cross because she was tired. She had had a very busy day. Ever since early morning she had been puffing out the white sails of the ships on the big ocean so that they could go faster; she had kept all the big and little wind mills whirling and whirling to pump water for thirsty folks and grind corn for hungry folks; she had blown away all the smoke from tall chimneys and engines and steamboats. Yes, indeed, Old Mother West Wind had been very, very busy.

Now she was coming across the Green Meadows on her way to her home behind the Purple Hills, and as she came she opened the big bag she carried and called to her children, the Merry Little Breezes, who had been playing hard on the Green Meadows all the long day. One by one they crept into the big bag, for they were tired, too, and ready to go to their home behind the Purple Hills.

Pretty soon all were in the bag but one, a willful little Breeze, who was not quite ready to go home; he wanted to play just a little longer. He danced ahead of Old Mother West Wind. He kissed the sleepy daisies. He shook the nodding buttercups. He set all the little poplar leaves dancing, too, and he wouldn't come into the big bag. So Old Mother West Wind closed the big bag and slung it over her shoulder. Then she started on towards her home behind the Purple Hills.

When she had gone, the willful little Breeze left behind suddenly felt very lonely—very lonely indeed! The sleepy daisies didn't want to play. The nodding buttercups were cross. Great round bright Mr. Sun, who had been shining and shining all day long, went to bed and put on his nightcap of golden clouds. Black shadows came creeping, creeping out into the Green Meadows.

The willful little Breeze began to wish that he was safe in Old Mother West Wind's big bag with all the other Merry Little Breezes.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Old Mother West Wind: Do You Understand?

## Part I. Short Answer

Answer each question below.

1. Who were Old Mother West Wind's children?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Where did she put her children when it was time to go home?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why didn't the little Breeze want to go home?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What did Old Mother West Wind do when the little Breeze wouldn't obey her?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Where did Old Mother West Wind and the Merry Little Breezes live?

\_\_\_\_\_

## II. Who Was It?

For each event below, write the correct character: Old Mother West Wind, the willful little Breeze, and Mr. Sun for each event below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Blew away smoke from the chimneys.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Put on a nightcap.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Shook the buttercups.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Helped all the ships go faster.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ Made the leaves dance.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Vocabulary in Old Mother West Wind

## Part I. Meaning in the Text

Below are phrases from the text. Circle the correct meaning of the underlined word.

1. "He set all the little poplar leaves dancing, too..."

A. liked or admired B. old book C. green D. a tree

2. "He shook the nodding buttercups."

A. dishes B. yellow flowers C. cows D. cookies

3. "... whirling to pump water for thirsty folks..."

A. raise from under the ground B. steal C. fill a glass D. save for the future

4. "...went to bed and put on his nightcap..."

A. a light that shines at night B. a head covering worn in bed C. a shade to block out light D. a gown worn in bed

5. "...she had been D out the white sails of the ships"

A. cutting B. washing C. blowing D. pulling

## II. Vocabulary Match

Match each word in Column A with its meaning in Column B

### Column A

1. \_\_\_\_\_ breeze

2. \_\_\_\_\_ cross

3. \_\_\_\_\_ grind

4. \_\_\_\_\_ crept

5. \_\_\_\_\_ willful

6. \_\_\_\_\_ merry

7. \_\_\_\_\_ wee

8. \_\_\_\_\_ whirling

### Column B

A. cheerful or carefree

B. crawled or moved carefully

C. cranky or angry

D. small or tiny

E. crush into a powder

F. spinning or turning

G. a small gust of wind

H. stubborn

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Find the Supporting Evidence

Below is one of the main ideas of the passage. Write three ideas from the passage that support this main idea.

The willful little Breeze behaved badly.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Old Mother West Wind Word Search

Circle each word from the list in the puzzle. The words can go in any direction.

Q	O	T	A	L	U	M	M	A	R	E	P	N	B	C
I	W	I	N	D	I	E	R	D	S	R	A	B	W	D
P	U	V	Z	N	H	R	R	Y	O	Q	S	A	O	O
D	B	U	T	T	E	R	C	U	P	S	D	A	Q	K
F	I	O	R	J	K	Y	H	E	B	M	P	N	H	N
O	E	B	A	B	T	T	H	D	G	U	T	V	D	S
O	D	U	G	U	O	R	W	I	L	L	F	U	L	O
M	G	L	E	F	E	O	A	Q	I	M	D	O	R	E
O	N	R	F	I	A	J	E	H	W	R	T	D	Y	U
T	Q	W	E	S	T	R	R	F	I	R	B	A	G	I
H	I	C	N	H	O	F	O	W	P	L	E	O	B	K
E	M	G	V	B	R	E	E	Z	E	L	L	C	K	K
R	E	F	H	C	G	I	M	T	P	E	N	S	R	M
Z	S	W	Q	D	H	T	U	Y	V	Z	N	J	U	A
R	Z	C	G	G	K	T	R	Z	P	U	R	P	L	F

BAG  
BREEZE

BUTTERCUPS  
HILLS

MERRY  
MOTHER

PURPLE  
WEST

WILLFUL  
WIND

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The willful little Breeze began to wish that he was safe in Old Mother West Wind's big bag with all the other Merry Little Breezes.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **KEY**

# Old Mother West Wind: Do You Understand?

## Part I. Short Answer

Answer each question below.

**Student's answers will vary. Example of correct answers:**

1. Who were Old Mother West Wind's children?

**the Merry Little Breezes**

2. Where did she put her children when it was time to go home?

**in a bag**

3. Why didn't the little Breeze want to go home?

**He wanted to play some more.**

4. What did Old Mother West Wind do when the little Breeze wouldn't obey her?

**She left him alone and went home.**

5. Where did Old Mother West Wind and the Merry Little Breezes live?

**behind the Purple Hills**

## II. Who Was It?

For each event below, write the correct character: Old Mother West Wind, the willful little Breeze, and Mr. Sun for each event below.

1. **Old Mother West Wind** Blew away smoke from the chimneys.

2. **Mr. Sun** Put on a nightcap.

3. **little Breeze** Shook the buttercups.

4. **Old Mother West Wind** Helped all the ships go faster.

5. **little Breeze** Made the leaves dance.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **KEY**

# Vocabulary in Old Mother West Wind

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2. "He shook the nodding buttercups."

- A. dishes   **B. yellow flowers**   C. cows   D. cookies

3. "...whirling to pump water for thirsty folks..."

- A. raise from under the ground**   B. steal   C. fill a glass   D. save for the future

4. "...went to bed and put on his nightcap..."

- A. a light that shines at night   **B. a head covering worn in bed**   C. a shade to block out light   D. a gown worn in bed

5. "...she had been D out the white sails of the ships"

- A. cutting   B. washing   **C. blowing**   D. pulling

## II. Vocabulary Match

Match each word in Column A with its meaning in Column B

### Column A

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **G** \_\_\_\_\_ breeze

2. \_\_\_\_\_ **C** \_\_\_\_\_ cross

3. \_\_\_\_\_ **E** \_\_\_\_\_ grind

4. \_\_\_\_\_ **B** \_\_\_\_\_ crept

5. \_\_\_\_\_ **H** \_\_\_\_\_ willful

6. \_\_\_\_\_ **A** \_\_\_\_\_ merry

7. \_\_\_\_\_ **D** \_\_\_\_\_ wee

8. \_\_\_\_\_ **F** \_\_\_\_\_ whirling

### Column B

A. cheerful or carefree

B. crawled or moved carefully

C. cranky or angry

D. small or tiny

E. crush into a powder

F. spinning or turning

G. a small gust of wind

H. stubborn

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **KEY**

## Find the Supporting Evidence

Below is one of the main ideas of the passage. Write three ideas from the passage that support this main idea.

The willful little Breeze behaved badly.

Student's answers may vary. Example of correct answers:

**“He danced ahead of Old Mother West Wind.”**

**“He wouldn’t come into the big bag”**

**“He shook the nodding buttercups**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **KEY**

# Old Mother West Wind Word Search

Circle each word from the list in the puzzle. The words can go in any direction.



BAG  
BREEZE

BUTTERCUPS  
HILLS

MERRY  
MOTHER

PURPLE  
WEST

WILLFUL  
WIND