

Teaching Voice Through *Mary Had a Little Lamb* Letter Writing

Share the nursery rhyme, *Mary Had a Little Lamb*, with students. Have students meet in cooperative groups to write a letter to his/her intended audience about the events that happened in the story in the voice of the person who is writing the letter. They may infer about what might be included in the letter and add details to make the letter fun and interesting. Have them focus on using the VOICE of the author, so the audience can hear that voice.

Person Writing Letter

Intended Audience

Mary	Her best friend Katie
Mary's Teacher	Principal
Mary's Principal	Mary's parents
Another Parent in the class	Letter to the Editor in the local paper
Brian, a student in Mary's class	His grandma and grandpa

Mary Had a Little Lamb

Written By: Unknown
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Mary had a little lamb,
Little lamb, little lamb,
Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was white as snow

And everywhere that Mary went,
Mary went, Mary went,
Everywhere that Mary went
The lamb was sure to go

It followed her to school one day
School one day, school one day
It followed her to school one day
Which was against the rules.

It made the children laugh and play,
Laugh and play, laugh and play,
It made the children laugh and play
To see a lamb at school

And so the teacher turned it out,
Turned it out, turned it out,
And so the teacher turned it out,
But still it lingered near

And waited patiently about,
Patiently about, patiently about,
And waited patiently about
Till Mary did appear