

Forgiven

I found a little beetle; so that Beetle was his name,
And I called him Alexander and he answered just the same.
I put him in a match-box, and I kept him all the day ...
And Nanny let my beetle out -
Yes, Nanny let my beetle out -
She went and let my beetle out -
And Beetle ran away.

She said she didn't mean it, and I never said she did,
She said she wanted matches and she just took off the lid,
She said that she was sorry, but it's difficult to catch
An excited sort of beetle you've mistaken for a match.

She said that she was sorry, and I really mustn't mind,
As there's lots and lots of beetles which she's certain we could find,
If we looked about the garden for the holes where beetles hid -
And we'd get another match-box and write BEETLE on the lid.

We went to all the places which a beetle might be near,
And we made the sort of noises which a beetle likes to hear,
And I saw a kind of something, and I gave a sort of shout:
"A beetle-house and Alexander Beetle coming out!"

It was Alexander Beetle I'm as certain as can be,
And he had a sort of look as if he thought it must be Me,
And he had a sort of look as if he thought he ought to say:
"I'm very very sorry that I tried to run away."

And Nanny's very sorry too for you-know-what-she-did,
And she's writing ALEXANDER very blackly on the lid,
So Nan and Me are friends, because it's difficult to catch
An excited Alexander you've mistaken for a match.

Questions

1. Who is Alexander?
2. Where did the child put Alexander?
3. How did Alexander escape?
4. Summarise what the poem was about in 3 sentences.
5. Write down 2 things that they did in the garden.
6. Who do you think Nanny is?

Answers

1. Who is Alexander? *A beetle.*

2. Where did the child put Alexander? *In a matchbox.*

3. How did Alexander escape? *Nanny let him out because she opened the box*

4. Summarise what the poem was about in 3 sentences.
 - *The child had a beetle in a matchbox.*
 - *Nanny opened the box so the beetle escaped.*
 - *Nanny and the child found the beetle in the garden and put it back in a matchbox.*

5. Write down 2 things that they did in the garden.
 - *Looked for holes*
 - *Went to places where beetles might be*
 - *Made noises*
 - *Looked for the beetle*
 - *Found the beetle*

6. Who do you think Nanny is?
Now-a-days grandmas are sometimes called Nanny but when this poem was written, a nanny was someone who was paid to look after the children a bit like a childminder. Mary Poppins is a nanny or Nanny McPhee.