

Discussion Questions for Miss Nelson is Missing by Harry Allard

I. Summary

Miss Nelson's class has been misbehaving, and Miss Nelson is sad. One day Miss Nelson does not come to school, and her class has the most feared substitute teacher in the world — Miss Viola Swamp! After having Miss Swamp, the kids realize they miss the kind and sweet Miss Nelson, so they behave and are glad when she returns.

II. Discussion:

1. **Why was Miss Nelson missing?** (Miss Nelson didn't like the way her students were behaving).
 - a. How do the children of room 207 treat Miss Nelson? (No respect).
 - b. Why did they behave this way?
2. **Why would it bother a teacher that her class behaved like Miss Nelson's class?** (Miss Nelson didn't feel her students were learning.)
3. **What did Miss Nelson's class need in order to provide a better place for learning and a happier place for everyone to be?** (Classroom rules – everyone works together for benefit of all)
 - a. What rules do you think the children of Room 207 were supposed to follow?
 - b. What rules did they consistently break?
 - c. How did their breaking the rules affect the class as a whole? (Prevented others from learning)
 - d. What are some rules in your class for how to behave?
 - e. How does it affect your class when you break the rules? (keeps others from learning)?
4. **Whose black dress was in Miss Nelson's closet?** (What is true identity of Viola Swamp?)
5. **Why did Miss Nelson pretend to be Miss Viola Swamp?** (Stop students' misbehavior, gain their respect).
 - a. What are some other ways Miss Nelson could have gained the respect of her students besides tricking them?

III. Activities

- Fold a piece of paper in half. Have the students draw Miss Nelson on the first section. Then have them draw Miss Viola Swamp on the second section.
- Using crayons, markers, and or construction paper, create a new disguise for Miss Nelson (besides Viola Swamp). Display your pictures on the bulletin board.
- Each student is given a house to write their favorite part of the story on. Then they color the house, cut out the door, and glue it onto a white piece of paper. They draw a picture of Miss Nelson on the outside of the door and a picture of Miss Swamp on the inside of the door. When you open the door you see Miss Swamp.