



Name: _____

Date: _____

Aunt Mary Came to the Party

The party was held in a large old house. The house was near the sea. There were fine gardens and trees planted on all sides. The party took place in the summer. It was one of those big family parties. Some parents brought their children. All of the aunts and uncles came. No one knows what the party was for. It might have been someone's birthday. No one would have wanted to miss it. There would be lots of good food.

Everyone was there except for Aunt Mary. Aunt Mary lived down the street. She was getting older now. One of her friends lived with her and took care of her. Early that day aunt Mary had sent a note. She said that she was ill. She was sorry that she could not come. Late in the day cake and ice cream were served in the living room of the big house.

One of the women looked out of the window. She could see the gardens. Suddenly she pointed and said, "Look!" There is Mary now! She came after all. The others looked out too. They saw Aunt Mary walking through the gardens. They saw her stop. She looked as if she might come across the grass to the house. Then she looked up at them and smiled. After that she turned away. They saw her walk slowly off through the trees.

They called her name but she didn't look back or answer. They ran out to the gardens. They looked through the trees but they couldn't find her. More time went by and she could not be found. Then someone came out of Aunt Mary's house. There was another note. Aunt Mary had died that day.

She died at the same time they saw her smile at them from the garden.