

# Henrietta Horned Pout

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One day no one liked her, then the next day everyone liked her.

So, what happened to Henrietta? Here's her story.

Henrietta was an attractive young horned pout, but she had a problem. Henrietta was a complainer. Nobody knew if she was born that way or if she learned to complain. It doesn't really matter. Henrietta complained about everything, and I mean everything.

If it was a bright sunny day Henrietta complained that the hot sun would dry and shrivel her delicate skin. But when clouds drifted over and the air cooled, Henrietta complained she was cold and would surely catch pneumonia.

Henrietta frequently went to the local park, but complained that nobody played with her. To please her, her friends often pushed Henrietta on the swing and spun her on the merry-go-round. But when they did, Henrietta complained of sailing too high or twirling too fast. It was a real problem. She complained when they didn't do something and she complained when they did.

After school Henrietta's classmates often met for snacks. As usual, Henrietta had to complain. She didn't like the cookies or the popcorn was stale, so she never ate any. But if anyone failed to offer Henrietta a treat, she complained they didn't like her.

At home Henrietta was a 'Master Complainer'. She complained about breakfast, she complained about lunch, and she complained about dinner. There was always plenty of good food, but Henrietta didn't like it. That is, she didn't want any until a meal was over. Then Henrietta complained she was hungry and wanted a bowl of soup or a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

Getting out of bed was also a problem. When Henrietta woke she was always tired, so she complained of not getting enough sleep. Yet at bedtime, Henrietta complained because she couldn't stay up to play or watch TV.

Getting dressed was even worse. Henrietta had drawers and closets full of clothes, but she constantly complained that nothing fit, the colors were wrong, or the designs were out of style.

As you can see, Henrietta was a great complainer. Everyone tried to help Henrietta, but nothing seemed to work. Her constant complaining was more than most could take, and gradually all her friends left. All that is, except Gertrude.

One day Henrietta cried, and cried, and cried. "Oh Gertrude, you're the only friend I have. I wish the other kids liked me the way you do. What's wrong with me? What should I do?"

"Well", replied Gertrude in a loving and caring way. "Everyone says you're a sourpuss, and you complain too much. If you want friends and happiness too, you'll need to change your ways. Be thankful, and stop complaining!"

"I don't know if I can", sobbed Henrietta, "But I'll try." That night Henrietta thought about her plight then decided on a plan.

The next day on the playground Henrietta shouted, "Let's play ball." That was odd for Henrietta had a great dislike for the game. Now, however, Henrietta was laughing and having a wonderful time. From that day on Henrietta was happy on the playground, and she never complained. Everyone wondered, "What's happened to Henrietta?"

At school Henrietta complained when others were chosen to answer questions or help the teacher. Now she smiled and cheered for her classmates. Most importantly, Henrietta didn't complain. Everyone wondered, "What's happened to Henrietta?"

At home the family was in for a special treat. When Mom gave her morning wake up call, Henrietta leaped out of bed, quickly dressed, and raced down the stairs. Then to their amazement shouted "great" when breakfast was served. Now Henrietta was thankful for every meal, and she even helped set the table and wash the dishes. Everyone wondered, "What's happened to Henrietta?"

What had happened to Henrietta?

Henrietta made an important discovery. Nobody likes a grouch. So Henrietta had to make a decision, be cranky and have no friends or be happy and have lots of friends. Henrietta decided to "happy-up".

It was hard for Henrietta to change her ways, and she needed lots of help, but Henrietta did it. She was happy at home, happy at school, and happy on the playground. In fact, Henrietta was happy and thankful all the time. Perhaps the best part is all of Henrietta's friends came back, and she made many new friends too.

Today Henrietta's a leader in the community and a good friend to everyone. She's thankful every day and a joy to be around. Good job Henrietta. Have a great day!

### **A Message for You**

Sometimes things don't go the way you like, and then you get upset. But that doesn't have to happen, and you don't have to complain. Ask God for help, and do what he says:

"Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Choose to be happy and thankful each day.