

Name \_\_\_\_\_ **Character**

## A Worthy Opponent

Miss Peacock plays golf every Saturday morning, but she never plays with the same opponent twice. Miss Peacock owns her own mismatched clubs and she keeps pastel-colored booties on them that she knits herself. She wears glasses even though she doesn't need them, because she thinks they make her look like a sweet old lady. But Miss Peacock likes to win, and she'll stop at nothing to do it!

One day, Miss Peacock was playing golf with Pastor Greg. She didn't know that Greg was a Pastor, because he was wearing golf clothes and a green beanie on his head. They had each bet \$10 on themselves to win, winner take all. Miss Peacock wanted to buy herself a new embroidery kit, and Pastor Greg wanted to buy dinner rolls to take to that evening's free spaghetti supper for the homeless. Neither Pastor Greg nor Miss Peacock could afford to pay caddies, so the two of them strode off onto the green, each dragging their own clubs behind them. This was just how Miss Peacock liked it. No witnesses!

At the first hole, Miss Peacock had three strokes already and was still six feet away from the hole. She got to the hole a few steps ahead of Pastor Greg, and stepped in front of her ball so that Pastor Greg couldn't see it. Just as she was about to take her fourth swing, she threw her hand up to her forehead and fell down flat onto the ground with a wail. Pastor Greg ran to her side. He felt for her pulse.

"Miss Peacock! Miss Peacock! Are you all right?"

Miss Peacock's eyes fluttered open. "I...why I don't know. Can I have some water?"

While Pastor Greg hurried to his club bag to retrieve a bottle of water he had stashed there, Miss Peacock reached out and shoved her golf ball as hard as she could. It rolled until it was within inches of the hole. When Pastor Greg got back with the water, Miss Peacock sat up and drank, and proclaimed herself ready to carry on.

"If you're sure," Pastor Greg said.

"I'm sure," Miss Peacock said. She stood up and walked towards the hole. But her ball was not there! She looked around in surprise. She was sure that she had pushed it to within inches of the hole.

"I think you're still shaken up, Miss Peacock," Pastor Greg said with a cunning smile. "Your ball is back here."

Miss Peacock looked to where he was pointing, and there was her hot pink ball, a few feet farther from the hole than it had been originally. She squinted her eyes at Pastor Greg. When had he done it? Of course she couldn't complain without giving herself away. It took her eight more strokes to get her ball in the hole, and she didn't dare to cheat again. Miss Peacock lost the round that day, and vowed never to play golf with a cheater like Pastor Greg again!



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**1. Why do you think Miss Peacock “never plays with the same opponent twice”?**

**2. Which character is “the worthy opponent” referenced in the title? Explain.**

A **character** is a person in a novel, story or play. But the word **character** also means the mental and moral qualities unique to an individual. A person’s **character** is revealed by what they think, say and do. Think about what both Miss Peacock and Pastor Greg thought, said and did in the story. Then answer the questions below.

**3. What did you learn from the story about Miss Peacock’s character?**

**4. What did you learn from the story about Pastor Greg’s character?**

