

Lovey Mary

Mrs. Wiggs held it at arm's-length and, squinting her eyes, read: "Home of an Island."

"That ain't what the man called it," said Lovey Mary.

"Oh, it don't matter 'bout the name. It 's a beautiful book, jes matches my new tidy. You could n't 'a' pleased me better."

"I did n't have money enough to go round," explained Lovey Mary, apologetically, "but I bought a dozen lead-pencils and thought I 'd give them round among the children."

"Ever'thing 'll be terrible wrote over," said Miss Hazy.

The last bundle was done up in tissue-paper and tied with a silver string. Lovey Mary gave it to Mrs. Wiggs when Miss Hazy was not looking.

"It 's a red necktie," she whispered, "for Billy."