



WONDERFUL WORD OF WACKY WORDS

RHYMING POETRY

by Judi Billcliff

POETRY

Is when a poem makes you
smile, laugh, cry, think, love,
be passionate and opinionated,
and all in the space of a few verses.

Judi B





Judi Billcliff

This resource has been put together to make life a bit easier for teachers. The PDF contains a wide variety of poems to use with junior to senior school in the primary area. It's packed with poems to be performed, and classroom activities for teachers. Children will relate to the rhymes and enjoy performing them in various ways.

They can be used as individual worksheets, or as ideas to lead a classroom discussion.

PLEASE NOTE: While my work is to be enjoyed and used, bulk file sharing is not in the spirit this file is intended, and would breach copyright. Please feel free to contact me about my work. I'd love to hear your ideas and feedback.

Author's note:

I'm an experienced drama teacher, performance poet and workshop presenter who is all about literacy for our children. It concerns me that studies show us children's oral language levels are declining around the world. Many children are arriving at early childhood centres and schools with language levels lower than expected. Researchers believe that busy, time stressed parents, and excessive screen time for children, is playing a part in this decline.

What do we do about it? Getting children talking is the first step. Rhyme has been proven to be one of the most useful tools in a child's oral language development. The musicality of rhyme draws them in, making them want to be involved. For the child with a shorter attention span, they can enjoy a poem, where they may not manage an entire book.

This is a fun resource to get kids engaged in language. The poems can be put on the classroom wall, into their poetry books, performed by the children, or read aloud. It's about encouraging children to open up and talk.

There are several yet unpublished poems. But most are from my *Granny Series*, 'Granny Does The Boogey,' 'Granny Goes To Hip Hop,' 'Granny Goes Bungy Jumping,' and 'Granny Does Karate.' Some have been adapted especially for this resource. All digital images are free to use. Acknowledgement to Aldo Picaso.

TEACHERS' GUIDE

SLIDE SHOW

Divide students into groups of four to six. Explain to them they are to produce a slide show for their classmates to watch, just like a 'power point' presentation. They are to perform six to eight slides creating a visual story.

The audience are told to close their eyes as the group gets into position for their first slide. Give them no longer than twenty seconds before calling 'freeze.' On freeze, the audience open their eyes and will see the still picture created.

Tell the audience 'shut eyes', the group then gets into position for their second slide. This continues for all slides as a visual story unfolds. Point out if they cheat and keep their eyes open, they ruin the story for themselves.

The outcomes of playing Slide Show are:

- It's a great way to build a story in a minimalistic way.
- Students have to keep to the main points of the story and be clear in their actions and expressions.
- Excellent for those students who lack confidence, as they can be involved without worrying what they have to say.
- If students are taking too long to get into position, or are quietly arguing, call out 'Freeze,' and they will quickly jump into a position.

SET THE SCENE

Divide the class into groups of no more than twelve. Think of a location for a family outing, e.g. McDonalds, park, zoo, circus, pool, concert, or the library. On 'go,' the students enter the stage area one by one and take up a position, e.g. McDonalds: staff, happy customer, annoyed customer, children playing. Say 'freeze.'

Extension of Set the Scene

Once the last student is in place, say 'action' and they add dialogue and movement. This can be individually or in groups, e.g. the grumpy customer telling her friend there's a problem with her food.

The outcomes of playing Set the Scene are:

- It helps students see the vast range of characters that can be in any story.
- Everyone can achieve in this game.
- Quieter students can play an important part with no pressure of dialogue.
- Students learn to explore emotions.

MIME

Mime is a great tool to help children recognise and improve their spatial awareness.

Little Lottie

Little Lottie loved to hide -
She thought that it was fun.
The trouble was she'd sneak away
Without telling anyone.

Mum can be a panic pants,
"It's Lottie, she's gone again.
Lottie, you better stop hiding
Before I count to ten!

Go and look in your wardrobe kids,
Go and look under my bed.
Go and look out in the laundry,
Then look in the garden shed.

Go and look in the bathroom,
And don't forget the shower."
"I've found her," Ben yelled, "In a pot
Pretending to be a flower."



Little Lottie Activity Sheet

1. Read the poem through again to understand how people are feeling. What does the author mean when they call the mother a 'panic pants?'

2. How many places do the children look for Lottie in? Write down some excellent hiding places that you have used when playing.

3. Write your own words for lines one and three.

.....
Go and look under my bed.

.....
Then look in the garden shed.

4. Why should you have rules when playing games? Write down three rules for when playing Hide and Seek.

5. What other words do you think would describe Lottie?

6. Make up your own name for a fun new game. Be creative.

Mr T Rex

I met a tyrannosaurus
Who said his name was Pete,
And his very favourite thing to do
Was find little boys to eat.

I felt my knees start shaking
And my stomach get butterflies.
He took a giant step towards me
And looked me right in the eyes.

I gave him a funny little smile -
I didn't know what else to do.
I was certain if I didn't leave
I'd end up in his stew.

He chuckled aloud, "It's dinner time,
I love having children for tea."
"Thank you for the offer Mr T Rex,
But you won't be eating me!"



Mr T Rex Activity Sheet

1. Read the poem through again in small groups. Someone could read what the boy says, and someone could be the dinosaur.
2. What do you think you would say to a hungry dinosaur if you met one? In pairs, one can be the boy, and the other the dinosaur. What do you say to one another when you meet? Use different voices.
3. Make up a recipe for a dinosaur's stew. What yukky things do you think he might put in it?

4. When the dinosaur says, "I like having children for tea," can you think of something else he might mean, instead of eating children.
5. Add the letters 'osaurus' to the end of your name. What is your dinosaur species? e.g. Sam would be a 'Samosaurus.'

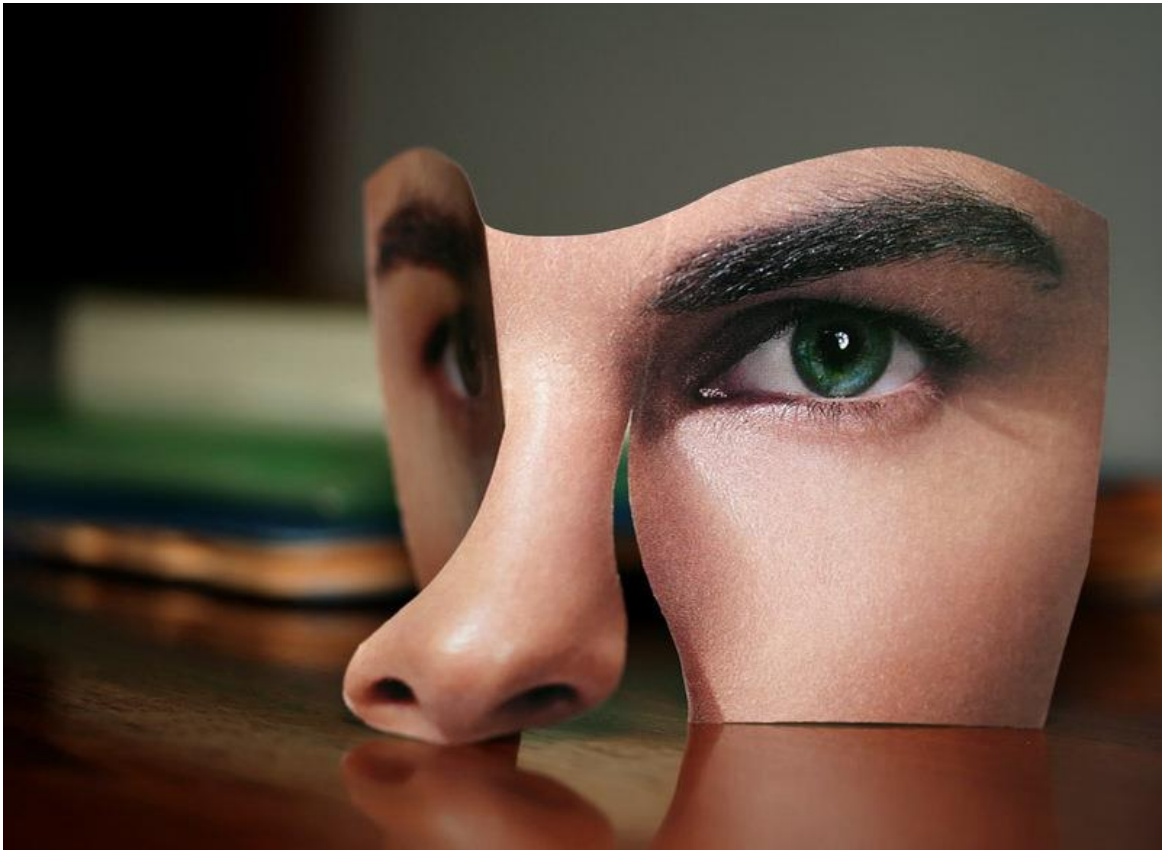
6. Write a description for your own dinosaur species.

7. Draw a picture of your own dinosaur species e.g. a Samosaurus.

What Am I?

I have a huge, crooked nose,
I have razor sharp pointy teeth.
I have bright red shiny lips
With a wobbly chin underneath.

I have oodles of spikey ginger hair
That pokes out from under my hat.
I own a stripey broomstick
And a fluffy, round, black cat.



What Am I? Activity Sheet

1. What or who do you think the poem 'Who Am I?' is describing?

2. After reading the poem through again, fill in the gaps below and create your own character.

I have a, crooked nose,

I have razor sharp teeth.

I have eyes

With a chin underneath.

I have oodles of hair

That out from under my hat.

I own a broomstick

And a,, black cat.

3. Draw the character you have created above in your own poem.

4. Look up what the word villain means. Now in small groups, make up a spell that turns evil villains, into someone good and kind.

5. Now act out casting your spell.

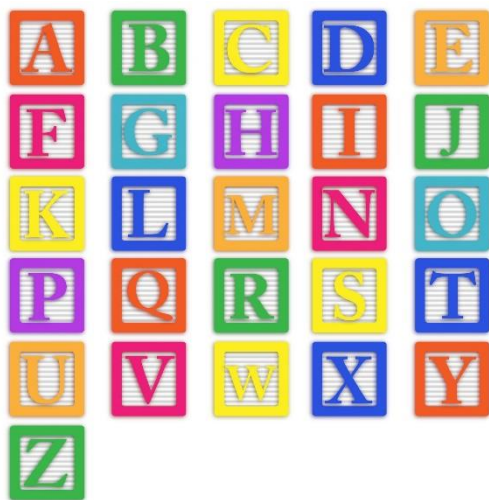
Words Werdz Wurds

Mum likes to boodlewoodle,
My dad likes to bellaloo.
My brother likes to chopalop,
My sister likes to charew.

My nana can't stop nanoodling,
My poppa has to pillop.
My cat can't stop scilapping,
My dog has to dinkety dop.

My rat spends his day rinunning,
My guinea pig has to grapoo.
My fish spends his day swilushing,
My rabbit always has to snuffoo.

What about me? What do I like?
I like to maycupnewurds -
There's only one rule that I follow,
They must all be completely absurd.



Words Werds Wurdz Activity Sheet

1. Make up your own meaning for the following words:

Boodlewoodle

Nanoodling

Swilushing

Dinkety Dopping

2. Write a short poem with four lines, using your own made up words

3. Find some words in a book that the author has made up. Some authors do this a lot, like Roald Dahl or Dr Seuss.
-

4. Have a short conversation in pairs using only made up words. This is called gibberish. Here is an example: 'Howda dooda mynay frundoo.' That could mean, 'Howdy doody my friend.'

5. Make up a secret class password, or a made up word for when everyone needs to be quiet.
-

6. Take a song everyone knows and change some of the words to 'gibberish.' Here is an example.
Happy Birthday to you,
I am making some stew,
It will be very delicious
And I'll bring some to you.

Have fun with made up words.

Santa Is On His Way

Santa is coming to our house
I wish he'd come to stay.
But once he drops my presents off
He heads off on his sleigh.

There's so much I'd like to ask him,
So much I want to know.
But when I wake up Christmas morning,
Mum says, "He had to go."

I've decided to write to Santa
And invite him to stay the night.
Do you think he'd fancy a sleep over?
Do you think that he just might?



Santa Is On His Way Activity Sheet

1. What is the special occasion in this poem about?

2. Why did Santa have to go?

3. What are some other special occasions we celebrate?

4. You may have children from other countries in your class, or school.
Ask them what special celebrations they celebrate in their culture?
Make a list of as many as you can.

5. What is the best thing about having a sleepover?

6. In groups come up with some rules for the perfect sleepover.

7. Write a letter to a famous or well known person, asking them to
come and have a sleepover, or visit at your school camp.

Help Mum Is A Hen

One day when I jumped out of bed
Something weird did happen.
My mum was clucking like a hen
And her arms were busy flappin.
'PLUCK PLUCK PLUCK'
Was the only thing I heard.
I shouted, "Dad come quick and see
Mum's acting like a bird."

As Dad came into the kitchen
He stretched, then sat on the mat -
'Purrrr, purrrr, meow meow,'
"Help, my dad's a cat."
When he saw the clucking hen
It got him all excited,
'Meeow Meeow PLUCK PLUCK PLUCK,'
The hen was not delighted.

She was running around the kitchen
Getting all upset,
Suddenly she squatted down
And laid a big round egg.
Mum was plucking and Dad was hissing,
But do you know what I liked most?
I locked them both out in the yard
And cooked scrambled egg on toast.



Help Mum Is A Hen Activity Sheet

1. Write down some words to show how the mum or dad feel when they realise they are an animal.

2. What would you say if you walked into the kitchen and your mum was a hen, or your dad was a cat?

3. Make a list of some things you would turn your mum or dad into?

4. Play the 'Imagine If' game. Take turns to come up with an idea like:
Imagine if you woke up and your father was a lion!
Imagine if you woke up and your mother was a giraffe!

5. Read the poem again, then act out a short scene using 'slide show.'

6. This time, choose some of the slides, and the leader/teacher calls out, 'Action,' and actors have to add some dialogue.

7. Choose one of the animals suggested by your classmates. Find out four interesting facts about that species.

Snorabella

When Bella goes to bed at night
Her family lies awake,
As the minute that she nods off
The house begins to shake.
Rattle, rattle, rattle,
Windows on the move,
Followed by the wooden floor
Swinging in the groove.

As the walls begin to shudder
Her family start to weep,
"Stop snoring Snorabella,
Your family cannot sleep!"
She breathes in with a snorting noise
Sounding like a pig.
Breathing out, she puffs so hard
She could blow off grandma's wig.

Snort, snort, oink, oink,
Then Snorabella blows,
And everyone starts shaking
From their head down to their toes.
When you're visiting Bella's house
You better be prepared.
Take ear plugs and your ear muffs
For when Snorabella goes to bed.



Snorabella

Activity Sheet

1. Why do Bella's family lie awake at night?

2. Make a list of words that rhyme with snore.

3. Now use those words to write a short rhyming poem about snoring.

4. What do the words, 'Rattle, rattle, rattle, windows on the move, followed by the wooden floor swinging in the groove,' mean?

5. What do you think the lion is dreaming about?

6. Have a classroom snoring competition.

7. In groups, share with others about the funniest dream you've ever had.

8. Choose the best 'group dream,' and act it out. Make sure everyone has 4 lines of dialogue.

Puppy's New Cell phone

My puppy has a cell phone -
It arrived on Saturday.
He went online and bought it
Now Mum and Dad have to pay.
He learnt to download lots of apps
So that he could play
Lots of different kinds of games,
It's what he does ALL DAY!
He used to be my best friend
But all I feel is bored,
He's supposed to play with **me**
But now I get ignored!
We'd been the very best of friends,
But that new phone had spoilt it.
I wasn't very happy with pup -
So flushed his phone down the toilet!



Puppy's New Cell Phone Activity Sheet

1. What would've been a better thing to do than flushing the phone away?
2. Can you understand how the child felt? How do you feel when you get ignored?
3. Do you think sometimes you ignore people too much when you're on a device?
4. If so, how do you think families could change that?
5. Write a letter from the boy, apologising for acting without thinking and destroying someone else's property.
6. How responsible is it to buy something online without permission from your parents or caregivers?
7. In groups, have a face pulling competition of:
The puppy when he found out his phone had gone.
The parents when they found out the phone had been bought online without permission.
The boy when he was being ignored.
8. Make a list of the different emotions they might be feeling.

Granny Is A Zombie

Granny turned into a zombie,
It happened last Friday night.
When Granny became a zombie
It gave us an awful fright.

We needed help for Granny,
We searched all night and day,
But Granny said, "I like it!
This look is here to stay."

"It covers all my wrinkles,
I don't have to brush my hair.
I think my teeth look better,
I no longer have to care."

Now we have a zombie Granny,
'Cankles' is her name.
On the outside she looks kind of weird,
But inside, she's just the same!



Granny Is A Zombie Activity Sheet

1. What sort of zombie would your Granny be?
2. What would her Zombie name be?
3. Make up your own zombie name, using only letters from your real name. e.g. Molly Mary Smith might be, 'Marslo' or 'Smart Mylo.'
4. Write a description of yourself as a zombie. Maybe even make up some crazy words.
5. Why do you think children today enjoy reading about zombies?
6. Do we sometimes judge people because of what they look like on the outside?
7. Act out a 'slide show' of when the children discover their granny is now a zombie.
8. Write an acrostic poem for the word, 'grandma.'
G
R
A
N
D
M
A
9. Make up a zombie dance for Granny.

It's Not Fair

- A "Are those your strawberries?
How many have you got?"
- B "I haven't got all that many,
But you've got an awful lot."
- A "I'm going to count mine,
Hang on, I've only got eight!"
- B "Oh dear, how sad for you,
I can see more on my plate."
- A "I knew that you had more than me,
And I don't think that's fair!"
- B "I've got more than you?
Like I even care."
- C "That's it you two, I've had enough."
Grandma snapped at us with a glare,
Then to our surprise she ate the lot
As if we weren't even there!



It's Not Fair Activity Sheet

1. Have you ever said, 'It's not fair!' to someone else?
2. In groups, make a list of situations when it isn't right to say, 'It's not fair!' to someone. e.g. like in this poem.
3. Discuss sharing, and come up with some ways in which the children could've sorted out the problem between them. Come up with ideas for better sharing in the class or at home.

4. Do you think their granny did the right thing, and taught the children an important lesson? If you grandparent did that to you, would it make you think more carefully next time about your actions?
5. What words in the poem show that the children were being selfish about anyone else's feelings?
6. Make a list of emotions that their granny was feeling as she watched them fighting.

7. Write a rap as a class, or in groups with the title, 'It's Not Fair!'

On The Go

Once upon a time
In a small, lost town,
There lived a little girl
Who was naughty all around.
She skedaddled into the forest
And what did she do?
She ran into a cottage
That belonged to you know who!

She gobbled up some porridge
She broke the little chair.
She fell asleep in someone's bed
But didn't seem to care.
Mother bear rang the police
Who turned up really slow,
They ran upstairs to discover
'Miss G' was on the go!

Out the window, through the trees,
Goldilocks cast a spell.
But it didn't work on the policemen,
So they locked her in a cell!



© Ajah Cameron 12 yrs 2018 Tauranga Intermediate, won my poetry competition. This is her fantastic winning poem which was published in, 'Granny Does Karate.'

On The Go

Activity Sheet

1. Who is this poem about?
2. Make up a name for the town.
3. What does the author mean by the word 'skedaddle?' Use it in a sentence of your own.
4. In small groups, discuss consequences of not caring about others.
5. Write a descriptive piece about how the bear was injured.
6. Have some of the class read the poem, while others mime it. Miming means using no words. You could also try reading it in a rap style.
7. 'What happened later?' Choose one of the following. Act out a short scene when a. Miss G apologises to the bears. b. The police detective is questioning Miss G. c. Her parents arrive at the police station.
8. In groups of about ten, play fun chase music, and create a chase around the class. To make this work, mark out a chase area, and stay in it. Try doing it in slow motion. Use lots of facial expression.
9. Choose another fairy tale, and write it as a rap.

My Family Tree

My sister is a nightmare
My brother is a tease,
My cat is scared of tiny mice
My dog is covered in fleas.
Dad's hair looks like a gorse bush,
Mum 'piggy snorts' when she laughs.
Granny shouts as if we're deaf,
Pop wears his clothes in the bath.
Aunty Jo never stops talking,
Uncle Ted drinks cockroach tea.
It seems they're all a bunch of nuts
That share my family tree.



These little 'nuts' are on my family tree!

My Family Tree Activity Sheet

1. Rewrite the poem, 'My Family Tree,' replacing lines - 1, 3, 5, 10 with your own words.
2. In New Zealand the Maori word for family history is 'whakapapa.' Pronounced - 'far -car- pa - pa.' The 'wh' in Maori is pronounced as an 'f.' What is another word used around the world for family history?
3. Find out where your families emigrated from, to the country you now live in. Research the culture from those countries, and make a list of some special parts of that culture. e.g. food, clothing, games, famous people.

4. Ask your grandparents about games they used to play when they were your age. Your class can try playing some of them.

5. Draw your own tree. Photocopy photos of your family, and stick them on to your family tree.
6. Choose some historical figures, and play, 'Imagine If.'
Imagine if Thomas Edison had not invented the light bulb.
Imagine if Alexander Graham Bell had not invented the phone.
Imagine if John Wesley Hyatt had not invented plastic.
7. Thomas Edison once said, 'I have not failed, I have just found 10,000 ideas that won't work.' What does he mean by that?

There Was An Old Woman...

There was an old woman
Who lived in a shoe.
She had so many pets
She didn't know what to do.
There were puppies in tea cups,
Mice in her hair,
Pigs on the table -
There were pets everywhere!
Fish in the bathtub,
Swallows in flight,
Cats in the kitchen
Having a fight.
They climbed on her broomstick
And off they all flew,
To live happily ever after
With someone calledYOU!



There Was An Old Woman Activity Sheet

1. Make a list of words that rhyme with, 'cat.'

2. Write your own poem in the style of Dr Seuss, called 'Cat On A Mat.'
The fluffy cat
Sat on the mat

See how many more lines you can write that end with 'at' words.

3. How would you feel if the old woman arrived at your house, with all the animals on her broomstick? Make a list of all the animals in the poem.
4. Choose one of them, and in groups, make a list of up to twenty breeds/species of that particular animal. e.g. dog = poodle.

5. Draw a picture of the broomstick with all the animals on it.
6. Design a new super speedy broomstick for the old woman.
7. Tell a shared, group story. Ten to twelve in the group. One person starts telling the story, and when the teacher/leader points to another person, they have to pick up the story and keep it going. If they get it wrong, they are out. Who'll be the last storyteller?

Writing Activity Sheet



Looking at the above picture, choose one of the following ideas.

A: A descriptive piece about -

Why the cat is in the bowl.

How the cat got into the bowl.

What happens when the cat wakes up.

B: Write a rhyming poem that starts with -

'The cat in the bowl

Said

Remember you can use two and even three syllable words like, control or waterhole.

Use www.rhymezone.com to find rhyming words.

Funky Monkey

My Dad took us out for a special treat
He took us to the zoo,
Where we saw a cheeky monkey
Wearing bright green sparkly shoes.
He was wearing funky sunglasses
And a red and blue striped shirt.
He was munching on bananas
And yoghurt for dessert.
When he saw us watching him
He offered us a bite,
But sharing food with a monkey,
Didn't seem quite right.



The Funky Monkey Activity Sheet

1. Would you share your food with a monkey? If yes, what food would you share? If no, why not?
2. Have a look at the drawing of the monkey in the poem. Write down some words that would describe him/her.

3. Give the monkey a name.
4. Everyone chooses an animal, then make up a jungle dance.
5. Play 'Set The Scene,'
At the zoo
In the jungle
6. In small groups, discuss some special places that your mum and dad, or grandparents have taken you for a treat?

7. Choose one of those special places, and tell a shared group story. Ten to twelve in the group. One person starts telling the story, and when the teacher/leader points to another person, they have to pick up the story and keep it going. If they get it wrong they are out. Who'll be the last storyteller?

Humpty's Accident

- A Humpty Dumpty perched on a wall,
B Humpty Dumpty had a bad fall,
AB All the queen's corgis and all the king's men
Couldn't put Humpty together again.
- C Now Humpty's mother warned him
D "Don't climb on the wall,
I saw a great big crack in it,
And I think that it could fall."
- C But Humpty Dumpty ignored her
And decided to take a gamble,
AB But instead of having lots of fun
He ended up all scrambled!
- A The moral of the story is
AB To avoid a broken leg.
ABC Listen to your Mother
ACD **And don't act like an egg!**



Humpty's Accident *Activity sheet*

1. What do the following words mean:

Perched

Corgis

Gamble

Moral

2. Do you think Humpty should have done what his mother said?

3. Why do you think children should listen to their parents?

4. What could have gone wrong?

5. Read the poem again in smaller groups, and take turns reading the lines marked with A B C D for 'reader's theatre.'
6. In pairs, have a conversation with one being Humpty, who thinks he knows everything, and one being the parent telling him to be careful.
7. Look up what the word 'fable' means. Choose one to share with the class. You could read it, act it out, or do it as a slide show and see if the class can guess the story.
8. Have a classroom discussion about situations when you need to keep yourself safe. Here are some ideas to choose from.
- a. Crossing the road b. Walking by yourself c. Being sun smart.

The Meanest Parents

We had the meanest parents
Who every single night
Said, "Eight o'clock, time for bed."
Then turned off our light!
We had the meanest parents.
No matter what we said,
They made us tidy up our rooms
And even make our beds.

We had the meanest parents
"Homework time," they'd say,
"It has to be all finished
Before you go and play."
They really were the meanest
As time and time again
They refused to let us play outside
In the pouring rain.

They were the meanest ever,
And didn't listen to what we'd say,
We had to clean our teeth, AND shower
Every single day!
If all those things weren't bad enough
They made us wash the car
Do the dishes, help with chores -
They took it way too far.

"If you don't do your practice
There'll be no time on screens.
Samuel go and feed the cat."
See! I told you they were mean!
Now that I'm a parent
With children of my own,
I never tell them what to do -
I just text them on their phone.



The Meanest Parents Activity sheet

1. Write down some synonyms for the word 'mean.'
-
-

2. Do you think the parents or the children in the poem were mean?
3. Do you think people talk to one another too much on screens, and not enough in person?
4. A limerick is a 5 lined, normally funny poem. Lines 1, 2 and 5 have three beats and rhyme with each other. Lines 3 and 4 have two beats, and rhyme. Write a limerick about your own family.
5. Classroom discussion/debate. In groups, list reasons for one side of the topic, then present to the class. Will they change their mind?
Some students come up with reasons why it should be.
Some students come up with reason why it shouldn't be.
 - a. Why homework should be compulsory
 - b. Children should have to do jobs at home
 - c. Screen time should be restricted
6. Make a list of age appropriate jobs children can do at home.
7. What does the expression, 'A job shared is a job halved,' mean?
8. Discuss if you've ever had a job/chore go wrong e.g. dusting and something special gets broken. Choose one of the stories and do it as a 'slide show.' Do it again, but this time add some simple dialogue.

Activity Sheet



What animal or creature can you see in this photo?

I can see a dinosaur. Can you see it?

Write a free poem, rhyming or not, about a dinosaur.

Write an acrostic poem using the word

D
I
N
O
S
A
U
R



Who sleeps here?

Give them: a name
describe what they look like
what sort or personality do they have e.g. happy, angry
are they human or animal
where do they live
something they enjoy doing

Get carried away, and go wild with your imagination. It can be as serious, crazy, silly or magical as you like.

Have fun with words.