

Poems

Use these extension activities alongside the book to adapt the material for your class.

Have you ever met a monster?

Draw your own monster, label it and tell its life story. Is it a kind and friendly one? Choose a name for it. What does it eat? How afraid should we be?

You can write this as if you are the monster yourself – “I was born...” – or as if you have met the monster – “A Pineapplehattipus is a fearsome thing...”.

NB Quick tip for creating a monster name

- list fruits or veg in a column.
- List objects or places in a second column.
- Pick randomly from your two lists.
- Add “ipus” or “saurus”

Eg. Pineapple/hat = Pineapplehattipus.

Now write your own poem telling the story of your new monster – the things it does, where to find it, what it eats. Are you warning us to keep away or reassuring us that your particular monster is really very nice?

My teacher has two faces

- Write a poem based on someone in your family or a friend, imagining all the different faces they have. Sometimes, when a person is in a bad mood, it's like a stranger arriving. In your poem, you could tell the story of this bad mood stranger. What happens to make them arrive and what is it like when the bad mood strikes? How does the bad mood stranger leave?
- Think of the times when you can't stop laughing and write a poem about the laughs that wouldn't stop. Maybe the whole world ended up laughing.

They're digging up my school

Write your own poem imagining a secret or mysterious thing happening somewhere inside your school. Think of all the unusual places where something might lurk undetected- a strange creature or a mysterious mist that changes people into something new or odd. Maybe there's a cupboard you have always wondered about. Or a room that is always locked. In your poem, tell the story of the day you discovered your school mystery and ended up on an adventure. Did you have to save your school from this new danger? Did you find yourself in a magic land?

The Socktopus

Write the poem to describe the day when the Socktopus arrived in school. A Socktopus can carry lots of things but they sound like quite a clumsy creature. They might 'help' with an art project. Or turn up on Sports' Day. How would they be in an eight-legged race? Imagine if they were **your** partner!

The secret guinea pig attack

What are the hamsters up to? They are always up at night, aren't they? Perhaps you follow one in the dead of night and make a spectacular discovery....

Write a new poem about what's really going on with a title such as "Hamster Havoc". Or choose a different pet.

The giant African land snail's rap

This poem uses a dance rhythm, as if the snail is jiggling and jiving. Think of a different creature and write from its point of view telling about your life and the place you live. Eg. Crickets and grasshoppers with clicking wings. You could write the sound itself on every other line- "clickety click, a wubbledy whirr....". Try singing your poem when it's finished. Maybe you have actually written a song

Chicks

You are a chick. Write a poem from your point of view as you hatch. Think, step by step, of all that you see and feel from being inside the shell to out in the world. It's hard to peck your way out of a shell! How do you feel once you are out and what do you think about the giants (humans!) who are peeping in at you through the glass?

Birthday

- Write a list of the best things about birthdays or other celebrations. What are the funny things? What are the food things? Turn your list into a poem.
- Imagine a giant animal birthday party and all the games they might play and things that might happen- maybe an uninvited animal arrives and changes everything. Now turn this into a poem.

The making of the rainbow

Imagine you live in only one of the kingdoms described in the poem. Describe your life there: the buildings, the foods, what you do all day, your clothes. Create your own poem called, for example, "A Red Day" or "My Yellow World" What are the best things about your world? What gets on your nerves?

The green

- The Green is a scary gloopy stuff that comes from the sea. Choose a different colour and write a poem about the day when the world was changed by its arrival. Is it scary or good for everyone?
- In a new poem of your own, imagine being given a magical bag of colours: Where do you find the bag? In each verse, describe taking out a colour from the bag and changing the world around you.

The breaking of the rainbow

When the rainbow breaks, all the birds in the world are made from the broken pieces. Imagine a magic bird who has all the colours in the world in its feathers. What would its powers be? Tell the story of the magic bird in your own poem. You could write it as if you are the bird or from the point of view of the person who finds it.

The first Christmas tree

The first Christmas tree in this poem feels small and unimportant. Imagine you are a Christmas decoration, left in a box and not hung on the tree or who has fallen behind the radiator. Pick anything you have ever seen hanging from a Christmas tree: a bauble, a star, a cracker, a homemade angel, a toy soldier, a candle. Something happens to make your Christmas special, maybe someone finding you. Where do you end up? Tell the story in your own poem.

The day the tree came down

The tree comes down in the playground and many animals have a wonderful day. Choose one of the animals or insects. What was it like when the tree came down? You must have been very frightened! Describe your day playing with the children. What was it like inside the school? What friends have you made? Tell the story in a poem.

The Christmas miracle

This poem has two journeys – a boy on a bus and the journey of Mary and Joseph, called the Nativity and these journeys come together at the end.

Write your own poem: Think of two different journeys- you on your way somewhere, perhaps to school, and an animal setting off somewhere nearby. List all the things that happen to you. List all the things that happen to the animal or things the animal does. Now set out your poem a verse each: one for you, one for the animal, alternating, until you meet. In the final verse: Where do you meet and why? What happens?