

First Grade Poetry & Sayings

Name _____

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I Know All the Sounds That the Animals Make

by Jack Prelutsky

I know all the sounds that the animals make,
and make them all day from the moment I wake,
I roar like a mouse and I purr like a moose,
I hoot like a duck and I moo like a goose.

I squeak like a cat and I quack like a frog,
I oink like a bear and I honk like a hog.
I croak like a cow and I bark like a bee,
no wonder the animals marvel at me.

Rope Rhyme

by Eloise Greenfield

Get set, ready now, jump right in
Bounce and kick and giggle and spin
Listen to the rope when it hits the ground
Listen to that clapped-slappedy sound
Jump right up when it tells you to
Come back down, whatever you do
Count to a hundred, count by ten
Start to count all over again
That's what jumping is all about
Get set, ready now,

jump
right
out!

Solomon Grundy

Author Unknown

Solomon Grundy
Born on a Monday,
Christened on Tuesday,
Married on Wednesday,
Took ill on Thursday,
Worse on Friday,
Died on Saturday,
Buried on Sunday.
This is the end of
Solomon Grundy.

Thanksgiving Day

by Lydia Maria Child

Over the river and through the wood,
To grandfather's house we go;
The horse knows the way
To carry the sleigh
Through the white and drifted snow.

Over the river and through the wood-
Oh, how the wind does blow!
It stings the toes
And bites the nose,
As over the ground we go.

Over the river and through the wood,
To have a first-rate play.
Hear the bells ring,
"Ting-a-ling-ding!"
Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day!

Over the river and through the wood,
Trot fast, my dapple-gray!
Spring over the ground,
Like a hunting-hound!
For this is Thanksgiving Day.

Over the river and through the wood-
And straight through the barn-yard gate.
We seem to go
Extremely slow-
It is so hard to wait!

Over the river and through the wood-
Now Grandmother's cap I spy!
Hurrah for the fun!
Is the pudding done?
Hurrah for the pumpkin-pie!

Table Manners by Gelett Burgess

The Goops they lick their fingers,
 And the Goops they lick their knives;
They spill their broth on the tablecloth-
 Oh, they lead disgusting lives!
The Goops they talk while eating,
 And loud and fast they chew;
And that is why I'm glad that I
 Am not a Goop- are you?

Sing a Song of People

By Lois Lenski

Sing a song of people
Walking fast or slow;
People in the city,
Up and down they go.

People on the sidewalk,
People on the bus;
People passing, passing,
In back and front of us.
People on the subway
Underneath the ground;
People riding taxis
Round and round and round.

People with their hats on,
Going in the doors;
People with umbrellas
When it rains and pours.
People in tall buildings
And in stores below;
Riding elevators
Up and down they go.

People walking singly,
People in a crowd;
People saying nothing,
People talking loud.
People laughing, smiling,
Grumpy people too;
People who just hurry
And never look at you!

Sing a song of people
Who like to come and go;
Sing a song of city people
You see but never know!

My Shadow

by Robert Louis Stevenson

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see.
He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head;
And I see him jump before me, when I jump into my bed.

The funniest thing about him is the way he likes to grow-
Not at all like proper children, which is always very slow;
For he sometimes shoots up taller like an India-rubber ball,
And he sometimes gets so little that there's none of
him at all.

He hasn't got a notion of how children ought to play,
And can only make a fool of me in every sort of way.
He stays so close behind me, he's a coward you can see;
I'd think shame to stick to nursie as that shadow
sticks to me!

One morning, very early, before the sun was up,
I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup;
But my lazy little shadow, like an errant sleepy-head,
Had stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep
in bed.

Hope

by Langston Hughes

Sometimes when I'm lonely,
Don't know why,
Keep thinkin' I won't be lonely
By and by.

Washington

by Nancy Byrd Turner

He played by the river when he was young,
He raced with rabbits along the hills,
He fished for minnows, and climbed and swung,
And hooted back at the whippoorwills.
Strong and slender and tall he grew-
And then, one morning, the bugles blew.

Over the hills, the summons came,
Over the river's shining rim.
He said that the bugles called his name,
He knew his country needed him,
And he answered, "Coming!" and marched away
For many a night and many a day.

Perhaps when the marches were hot and long
He'd think of the river flowing by
Or, camping under the winter sky,
Would hear the whippoorwill's far-off song.
Boy or soldier, in peace or strife,
He loved America all his life!

The Purple Cow by Gelett Burgess

I never saw a Purple Cow,
 I never hope to see one;
But I can tell you, anyhow,
 I'd rather see than be one!

The Swing

by Robert Louis Stevenson

How do you like to go up in a swing,
Up in the air so blue?
Oh, I do think it is the pleasantest thing
Ever a child can do!

Up in the air and over the wall,
Till I can see so wide,
Rivers and trees and cattle and all
Over the countryside-

Till I look down on the garden green,
Down on the roof so brown-
Up in the air I go flying again,
Up in the air and down!

Thirty Days Hath September

Thirty days hath September
April, June, and November
All the rest have thirty-one,
But February has twenty-eight alone,
Except in leap year, that's the time
When February's days are twenty-nine.

The Pasture by Robert Frost

I'm going out to clean the pasture spring;
I'll only stop to rake the leaves away
(And wait to watch the water clear, I may):
I shan't be gone long.- You come too.

I'm going out to fetch the little calf
That's standing by the mother. It's so young
It totters when she licks it with her tongue.
I shan't be gone long.- You come too.

Wynken, Blynken, and Nod

by Eugene Field

Wynken, Blynken, and Nod one night
 Sailed off in a wooden shoe-
Sailed on a river of crystal light
 Into a sea of dew.
“Where are you going, and what do you wish?”
 The old moon asked the three.
“We have come to fish for the herring fish
 That live in this beautiful sea;
 Nets of silver and gold have we,”
 Said Wynken,
 Blynken,
 And Nod.

The old moon laughed and sang a song,
 As they rocked in the wooden shoe;
And the wind that sped them all night long
 Ruffled the waves of dew.
The little stars were the herring fish
 That lived in that beautiful sea;
“Now cast your nets wherever you wish,
 Never afeared are we!”
 So cried the stars to the fishermen three,
 Wynken,
 Blynken,
 And Nod.

All night long their nets they threw
 To the stars in the twinkling foam;
Then down from the skies came the wooden shoe,
 Bringing the fishermen home.
‘Twas all so pretty a sail, it seemed
 As if it could not be;
And some folk thought ‘twas a dream they’d dreamed
 Of sailing that beautiful sea;
 But I shall name you the fishermen three:
 Wynken,
 Blynken,
 And Nod.

Wynken and Blynken are two little eyes,
 And Nod is a little head,
And the wooden shoe that sailed the skies

Is a wee one's trundle bed;
So shut your eyes while Mother sings
Of wonderful sights that be,
And you shall see the beautiful things
As you rock in the misty sea
Where the old shoe rocked the fishermen three,
 Wynken,
 Blynken,
 And Nod.

First Grade Poetry Recitation Rubric

Memorization	0	1	2	3	4	5
Expression	0	1	2	3	4	5
Eye Contact	0	1	2	3	4	5
Voice Projection	0	1	2	3	4	5
Clarity of speaking	0	1	2	3	4	5
Total points and grade	_____/25 X 4= __/100					

Sayings & Phrases

- A.M. and P.M.
- An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
People use it to mean that eating apples helps keep you healthy.
- Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
People use it to mean to treat others as you would like to be treated yourself.
- Fish out of water.
- Hit the nail on the head.
People use it to mean that you have said or done something just right.
- If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.
People use it to mean don't give up; keep trying.
- Land of Nod
It means to be asleep.
- Let the cat out of the bag.
It means you told something that was meant to be a secret.
- The more the merrier.
People use this to say welcome because the more people who take part, the more fun it will be.
- Never leave till tomorrow what you can do today.
People use this to mean don't put off things you have to do.
- Practice makes perfect.
People use this saying to mean doing something over and over makes you good at it.
- Sour grapes
(from Aesop's fables)
- There's no place like home.
People use it to mean that travel may be pleasant, but home is the best place of all.
- Wolf in sheep's clothing.
(from Aesop's fables)