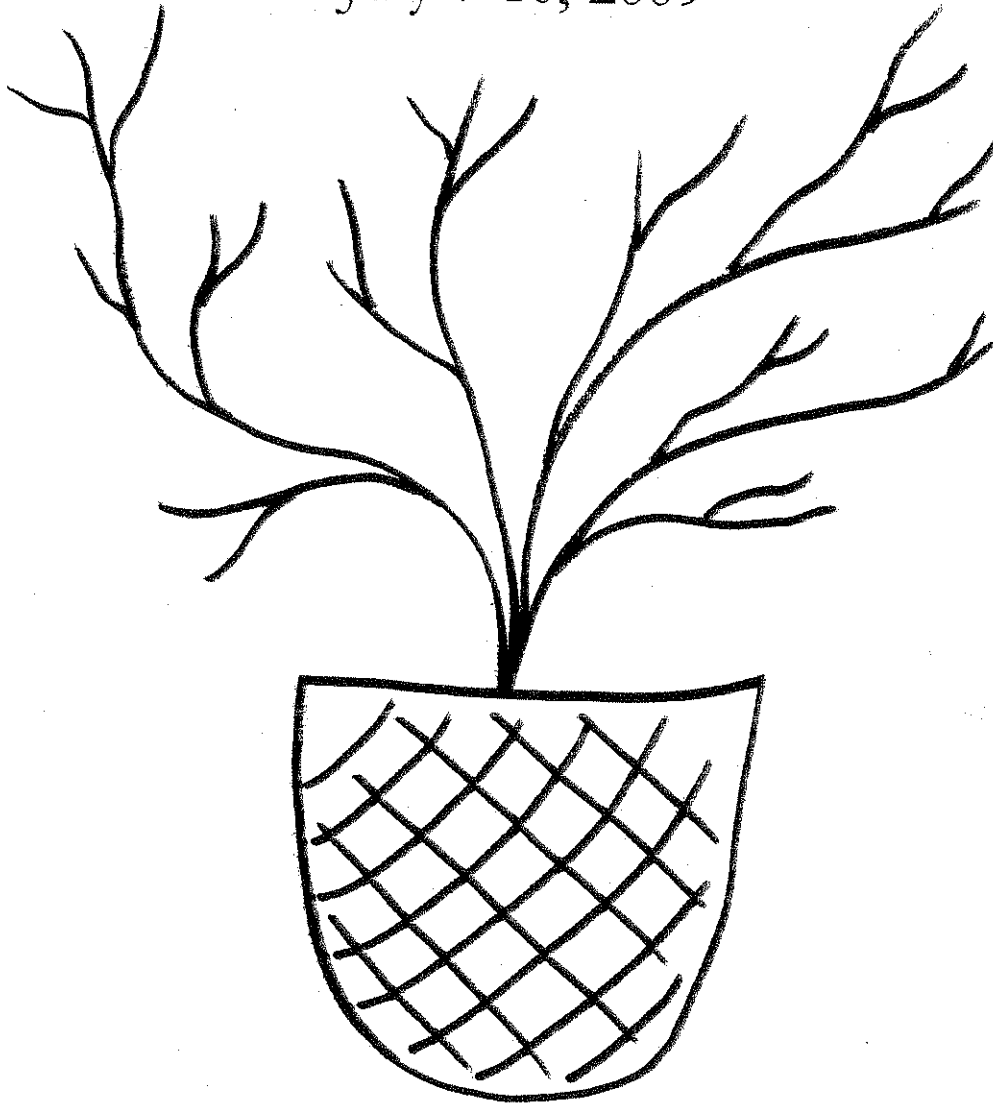


IBSC 16th Annual Global Conference
July 7-10, 2009



The Poetry Tree

*Presented by Kay Carrio and Carole Rice
St. Mark's School of Texas*

carrio@smtexas.org

rice@smtexas.org

The Poetry Tree

Years ago I decided I wanted to have poetry as an important part of my language arts curriculum. Over the years, my students and I have begun our day by sharing a poem which we have carefully chosen. My classroom collection of poetry books has grown, and we now have over 100 books from which to choose a special poem. As the boys listen to poems both fun and serious by such authors as Shel Silverstein and Robert Frost, they have also become accustomed to memorizing a poem to be recited in class each week. Why poetry? The benefits are almost too numerous to count! When we listen to poetry, we begin to comprehend a message being sent in a new form. We learn to appreciate the value of words, and we, too, desire to strengthen our own vocabulary. We listen, we interpret, and our minds take flight ~ all done with poetry.

Learning to write and decorate a poem for our "Poetry Tree" brings much pleasure to students of any age. Our "tree" is simply a large branch set in a pot and anchored with white stones. Each month of the school year is devoted to a poem appropriate to the special happenings of that particular month. We might follow a schedule that includes:

September ~ a leaf decorated with the beginning line, "I like the feel of fall..."

October ~ a Halloween ghost cinquain

November ~ a Pilgrim decorated with the words, "I am thankful ..."

Each month as we work on our special theme, the students have an opportunity to experiment with choosing the best nouns, verbs, and adjectives, and to make good

word choices that express their own voices. Our poetry is shared in class and then placed on our “Poetry Tree” for visitors to read and to enjoy.

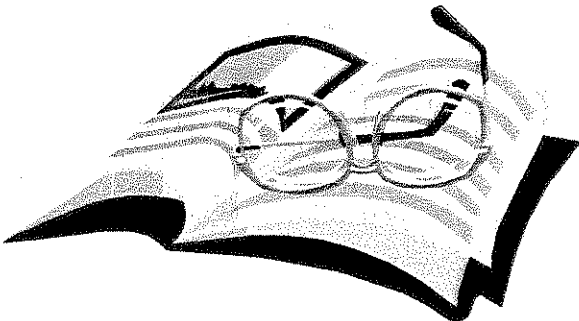
I have found over the years that when given a free-reading time, many of the children gravitate to our poetry books. They don’t feel intimidated by poetry. It can be a puzzle for them to begin to understand and to derive pleasure from.

When Kay Carrio joined our first-grade faculty three years ago, I sensed I had found another poetry lover. Outside of her classroom on a large bulletin board which sits right above our drinking fountain, you will find a wide and wonderful variety of poems. Her little guys have written everything from cinquains to limericks! When the students in our Lower School drink at this fountain, they always comment on the latest entertaining poetry. Kay has a true appreciation for all kinds of poetry, and she has used a variety of methods to help the boys enjoy this genre while encouraging them to become poets themselves.

Kay and I have worked together on compiling a list of poetry books for children, “how-to teach poetry” books for teachers, and our favorite websites for more information on poetry, poem forms, and poets. Build your collection of poetry books where you are ~ new books, old books, in-between books. Enjoy the adventure, and most of all, have fun!

Poetry promotes ...

- * Confidence in both reading and creative writing
- * Absorption of language and meaning
- * Sharing of individual thoughts, dreams, beliefs, and feelings
- * Developing a strong vocabulary and reinforcing grammar skills
- * Understanding parts of speech including nouns, verbs, and adjectives
- * Responding emotionally to words and ideas
- * Laughing at ridiculous lines and situations
- * Curiosity about words and their meanings
- * Inspiration for art activities
- * Strengthening of memorization skills
- * Introduction to new words and ideas



Tree of the Month

Each month a writing exercise is used to complete some type of poetry expression. The results of this work are displayed on a large tree branch located in the classroom. The following projects have been chosen for the months of the school year:

September: a leaf, using the opening line, "I like the feel of fall ..."

October: a ghost, using a cinquain for Halloween

November: a pilgrim, using the opening line, "I am grateful for ..."

December: a holiday stocking, using the opening line, "Winter is ..."

January: a snowman, using the opening line, "A snowman stands so very still ..."

February: a heart, using the opening line, "Love is ..."

March: a three leaf clover, using the opening line, "If a leprechaun gave me three wishes ..."

April: a large spring egg, using the opening line, "Spring sings with ..."

May: a kite, using a diamante, a diamond-shaped poem which builds a dynamic contrast between two opposite ideas or objects.

NOTES:

September



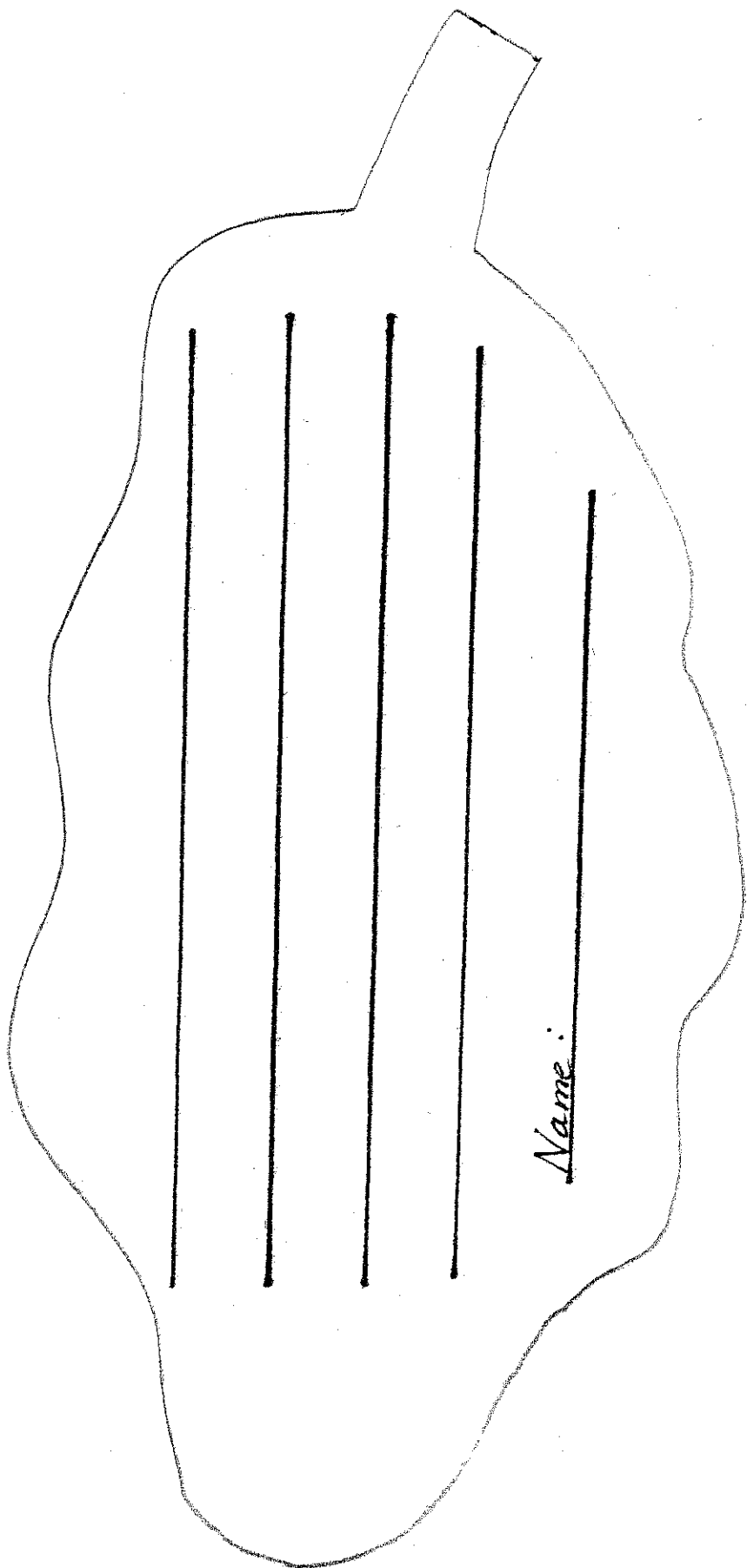
I like the feel of fall

Soft brown squirrels

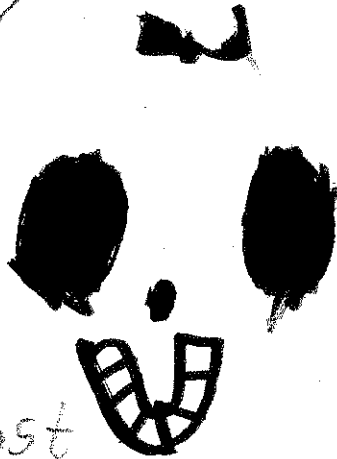
Hard blackish trees

Bumpy orange pumpkins!

Name: Pashan V. 15 9/14/08



October



ghost

quiet, scary

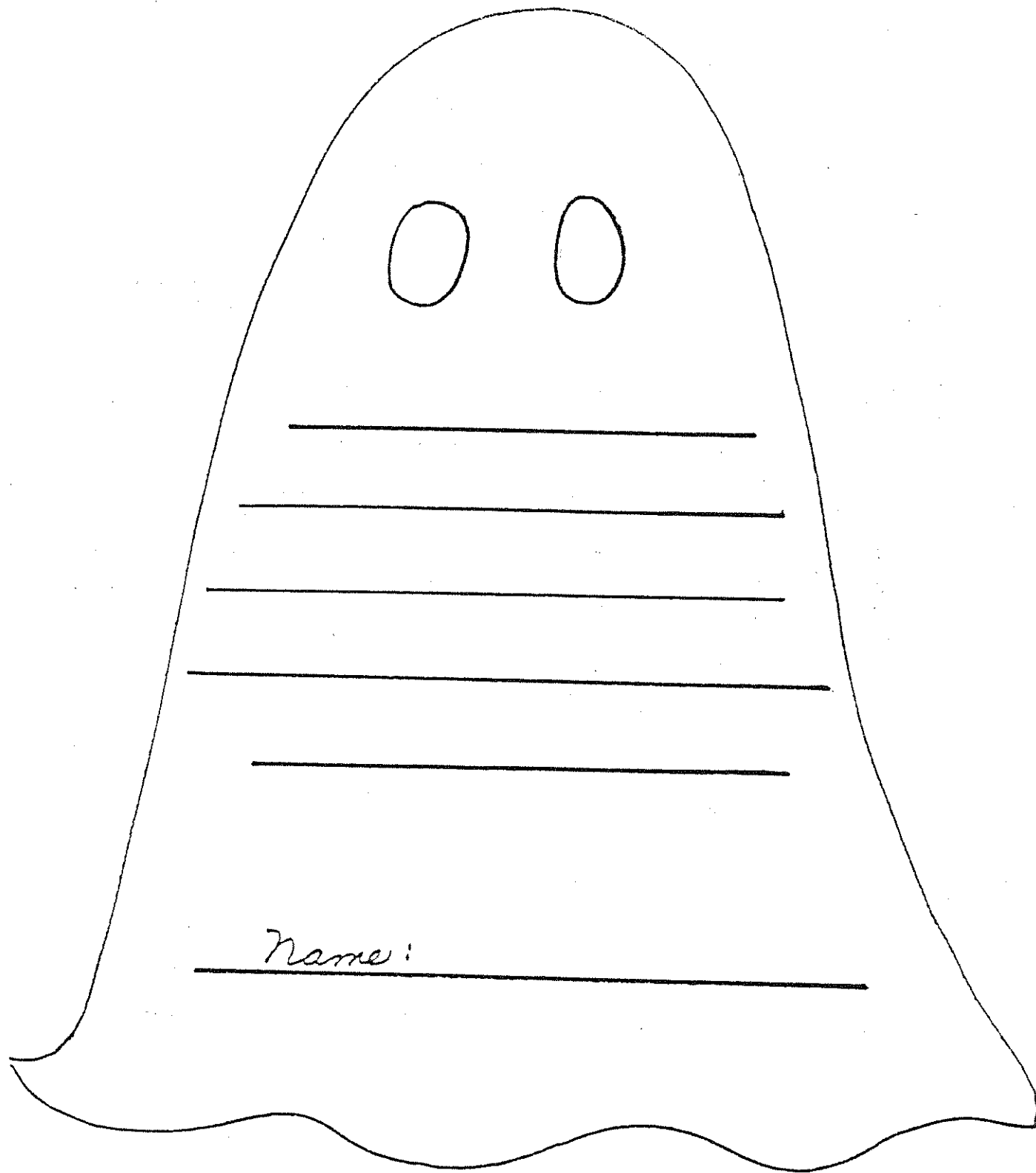
floating, gliding, hiding

never stops moving around

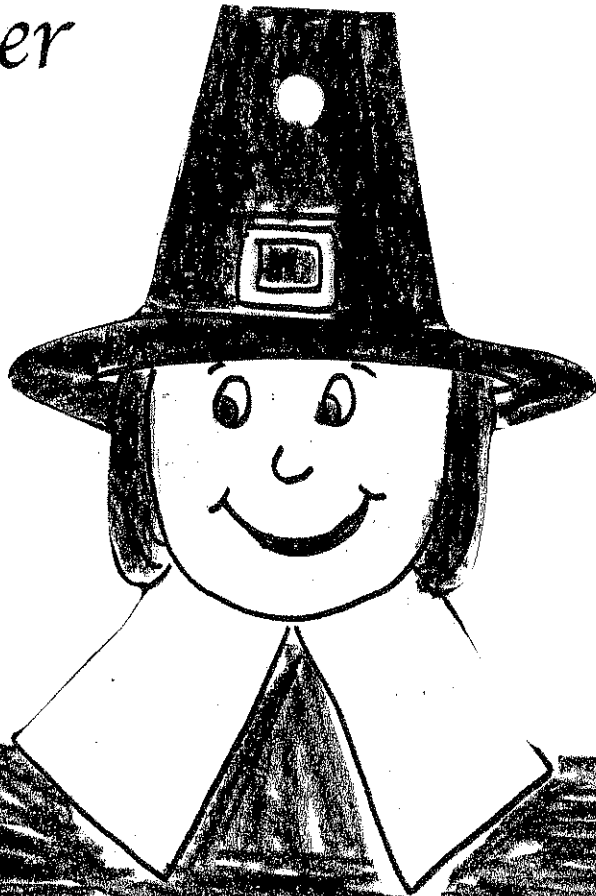
Halloween



Name: Blake R. - 1110-608



November



I am thankful for
the beauty of all nature.

love because everyone needs it,
family because they all love me.

food for a healthy body.

God for looking down on me.

police for keeping us safe.

friends because they are nice to me.

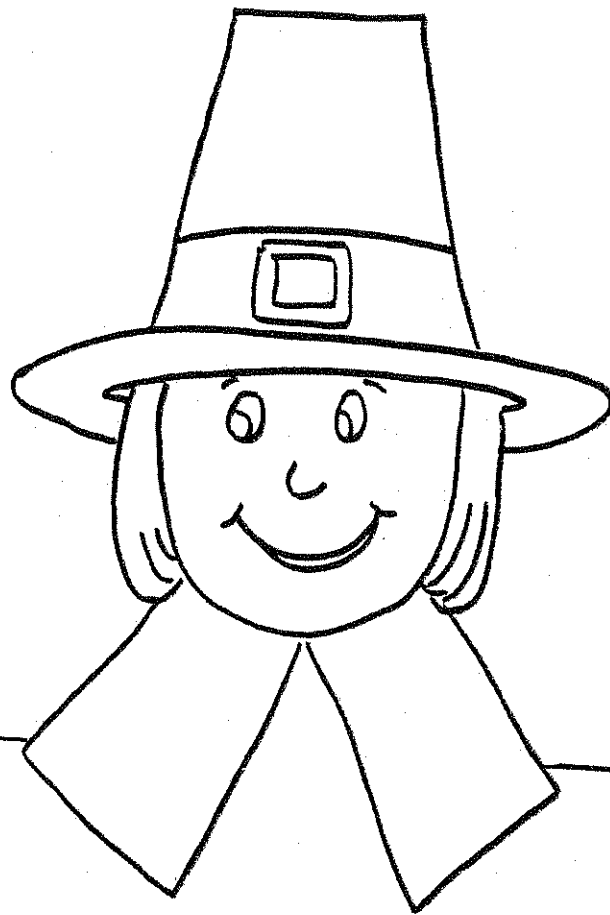
kids because they brighten up
my day.

animals for our food.

the whole world for us.

Name: Andy C-2 11-4-08

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

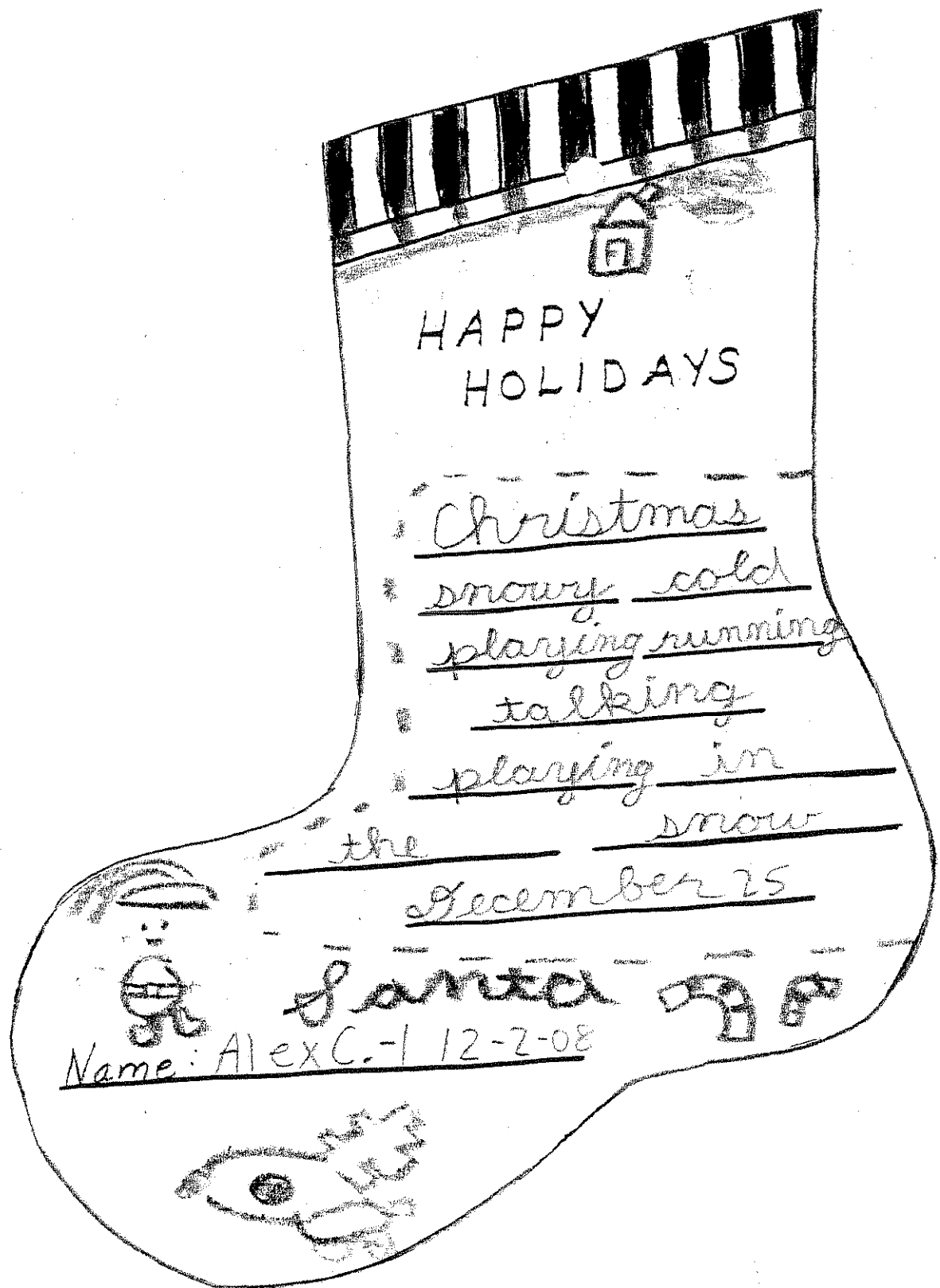


I am thankful for

Name:

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

December



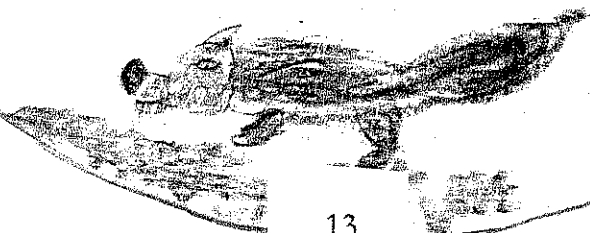


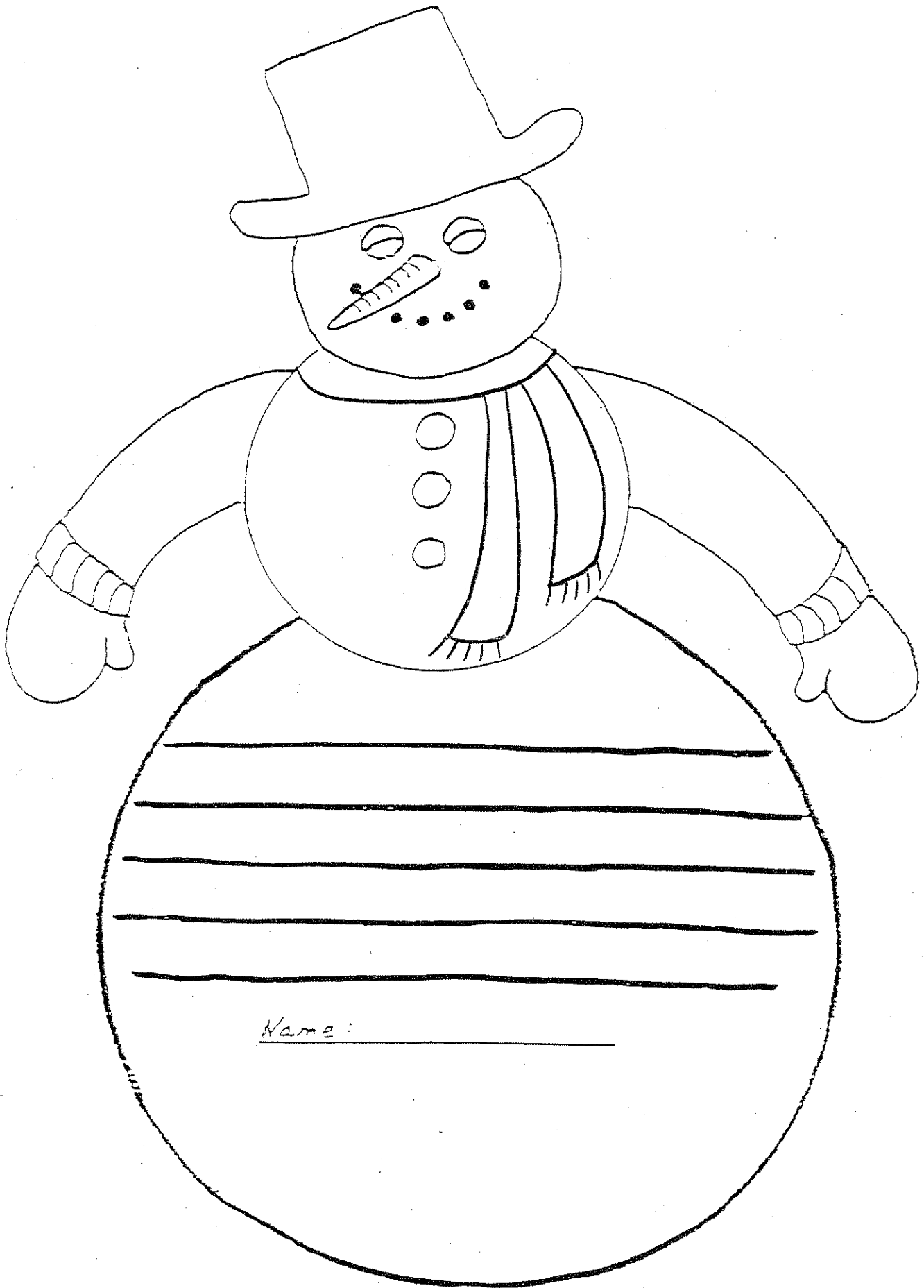
January



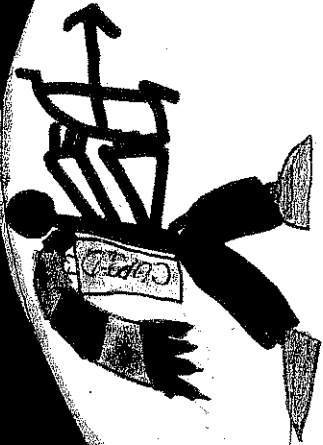
A snowman stands so very still
He spies a fox on the hill
The fox
slinks, crawls, springs, and
lands!

Name: Kyle L. -12 1-12-09





February



Love is

helping poor people that don't
have money.

caring for people who are sick.
giving compliments to your
classmates.

making friends welcome in
your house.

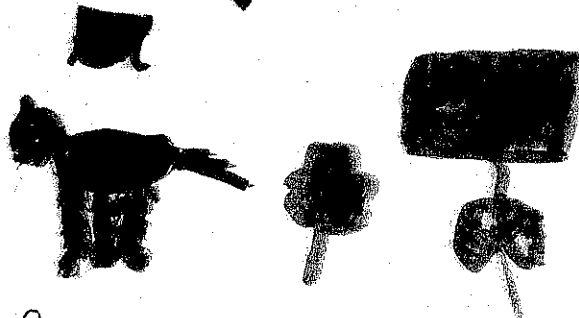
Name: Harrison L. S.

2-11-09



A large, irregularly shaped outline, resembling a stylized letter 'S' or a fish-like shape, is centered on the page. Inside this outline, there are ten vertical lines of varying lengths, intended for writing. On the right side of the outline, the word "Name:" is written in a cursive script, followed by a vertical line for a name.

March

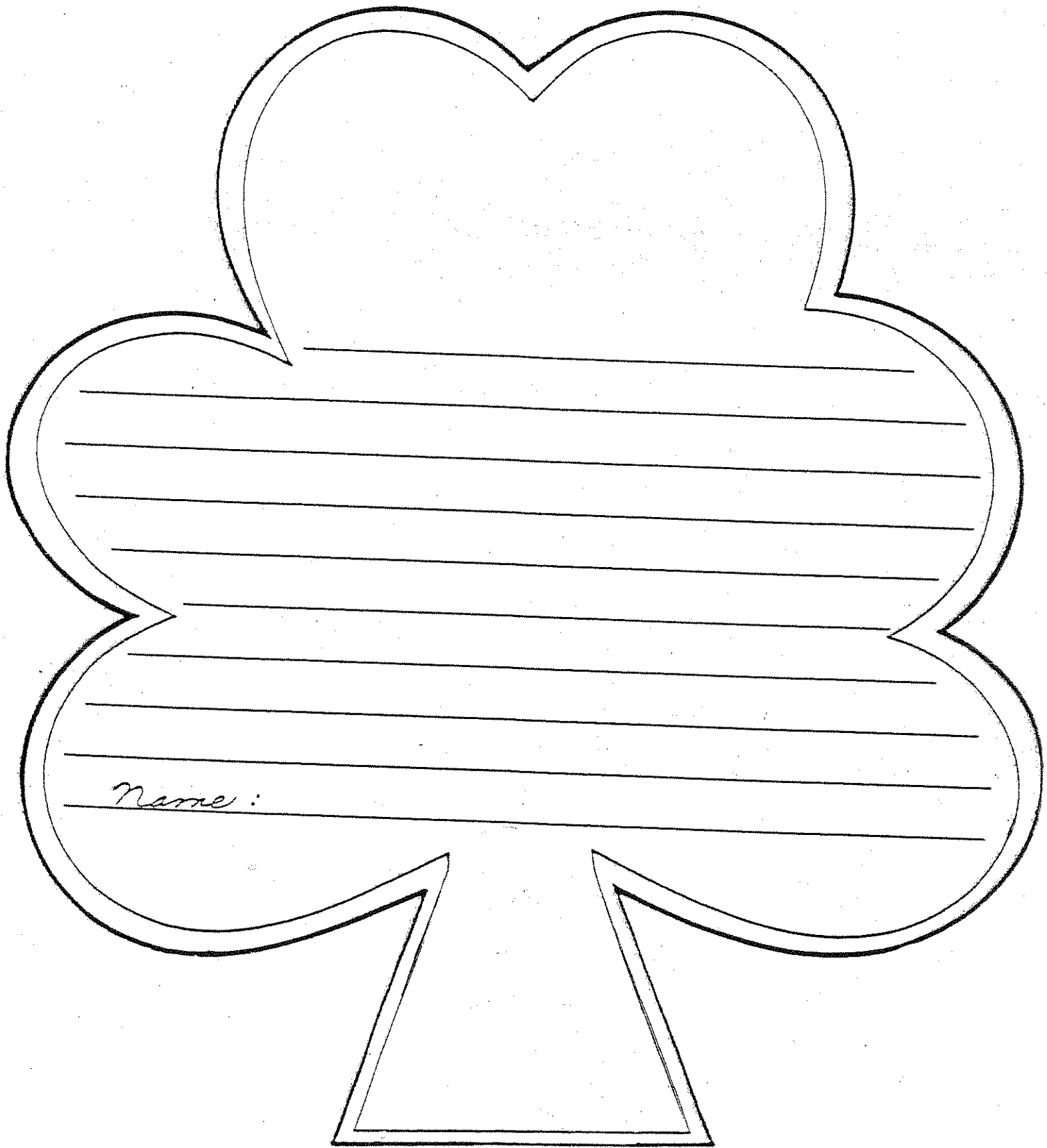


If a leprechaun
granted me three wishes,
This is what they would be...

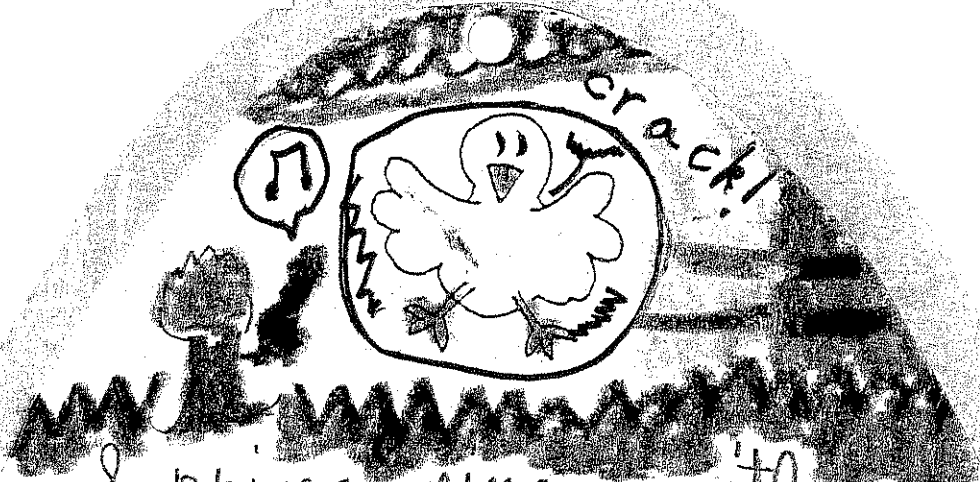
a game,
a pup,
and a leprechaun.
These are my wishes three!

Name: Simon U-14 3-6-09





April



I spring sings with...

Baby cubs going out of
their den,

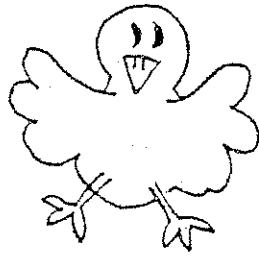
Cute bunnies hopping down the
road,

I fluffy bluebirds singing a song,

I my chicks hatching out of their eggs!

name: Whit. J. - 13 4-7-09



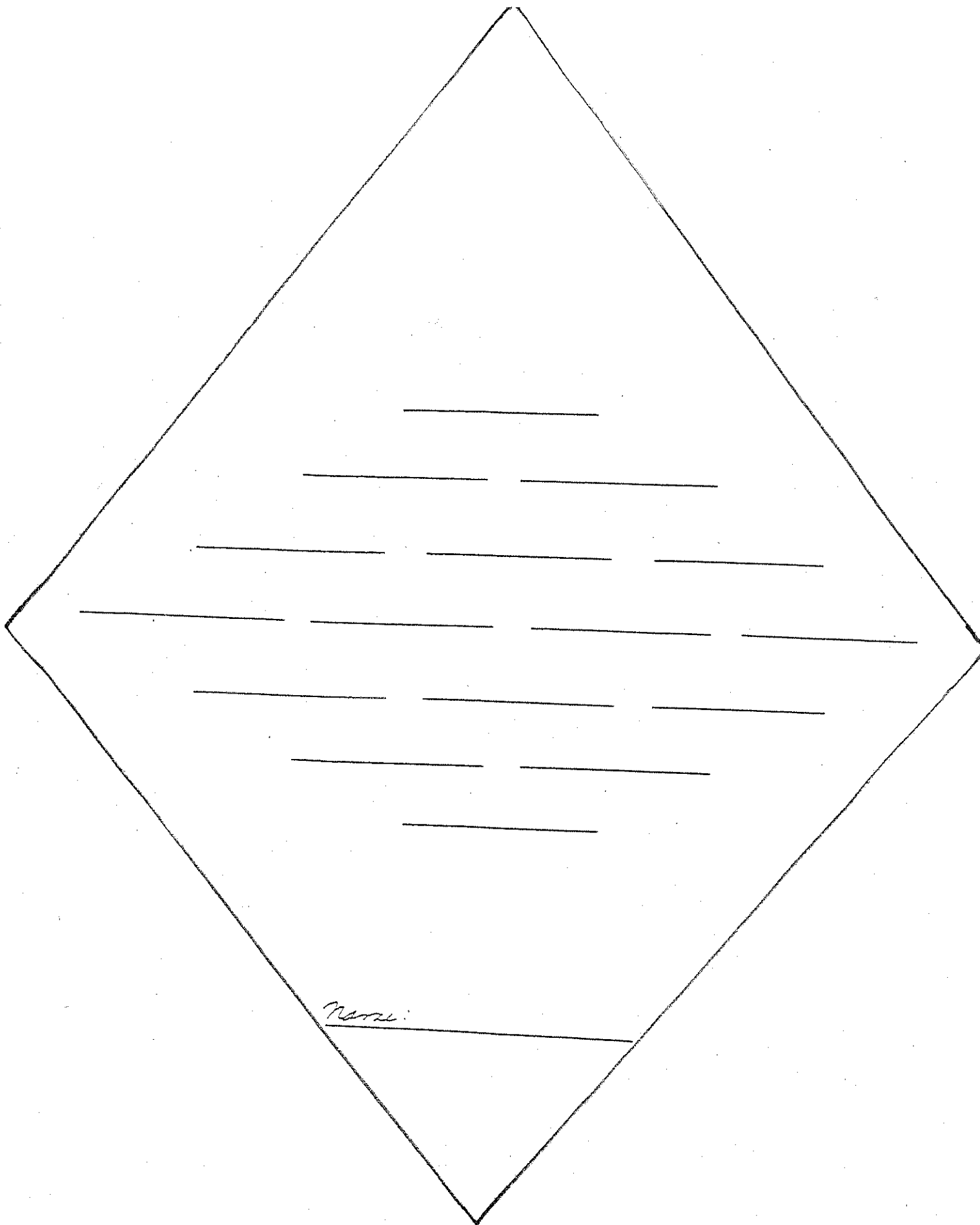


Name :

May



Name: Adrian K. 15-5-09



Name: _____

Professional Resources

- Hayes, M. Ed., Nan E. *Develop Reading Fluency Using Poetry*. California: Teacher Created Resources, Inc., 2004.
- Hollenbeck, Kathleen M. *The Big Book of Classroom Poems*. New York: Scholastic, 2004.
- Learning to Write Poetry*. Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania, 1992..
- Mann, Kirk. *Playful Poems That Build Reading Skills*. New York: Scholastic Professional Books, 2000.
- Moore, Helen H. *A Poem a Day*. New York: Scholastic Professional Books, 1997.
- Moore, Jo Ellen. *Writing Poetry with Children*. U.S.A.: Evan-Moor, 1999.
- Perfect Poems With Strategies for Building Fluency*. New York: Scholastic, 2004.
- Scott, Louise Binder. *Beasties*. Minnesota: T.S. Denison and Co., Inc., 1990.
- Spellman, Linda. *Poetry Party*. California: The Learning Works, Inc., 1981.
- Sweeney, Jacqueline. *Fun 15-Minute Poetry-Writing Activities*. New York: Scholastic Professional Books, 2000.

Children's Poetry Books

- An Illustrated Treasury of Read-Aloud Poems for Young People*. New York: Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers, 2003.
- Adolf, Arnold. *Love Letters*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1997.
- Alexander, Rosemary (compiled and edited by). *Poetry Place Anthology*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1983.
- Dakos, Kalli. *If You're Not Here, Please Raise Your Hand*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1990.
- de Regniers, Beatrice Schenk (selected by). *Sing a Song of Popcorn*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1988.
- Driscoll, Michael. *A Child's Introduction to Poetry*. New York: Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers, Inc., 2003.
- Evans, Dilys (compiled by). *Weird Pet Poems*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1997.
- Florian, Douglas. *Laugh-eteria*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1999.
- Florian, Douglas. *Winter Eyes*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1999.
- Foster, John. *Another First Poetry Book*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987.
- Foster, John. *Another Third Poetry Book*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988.
- George, Kristina O'Connell. *The Great Frog Race*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1998.
- Grimes, Nikki. *Hopscotch Love*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2000.

- Hoberman, Mary Ann. *You Read to Me, I'll Read to You*. New York: Little, Brown and Co., 2004.
- Holbrook, Sara. *Nothing's the End of the World*. Pennsylvania: Wordsong Boyds Mill Press Inc., 1995.
- Holbrook, Sara. *The Dog Ate My Homework*. Pennsylvania: Wordsong Boyds Mill Press Inc., 1996.
- Hopkins, Lee Bennett. *My America*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2002.
- Hopkins, Lee Bennett. *Ring Out, Wild Bells*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1992.
- Katz, Alan. *I'm Still Here in the Bathtub*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2004.
- Katz, Alan. *Take Me Out of the Bathtub*. New York: Margaret K. Mc Elderry Books, 2001.
- Katz, Alan. *Where Did They Hide My Presents?* New York: Margaret K. Mc Elderry Books, 2005.
- Kennedy, Caroline. *A Family of Poems*. New York: Hyperion/Hyperion Books for Children, 2005.
- Lansky, Bruce (selected by). *If Kids Ruled the World*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2005.
- Lansky, Bruce (selected by). *Miles of Smiles*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1998.
- Lansky, Bruce (selected by). *My Dog Ate My Homework*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2002.
- Lansky, Bruce (selected by). *No More Homework! No More Tests!* New York: Scholastic Inc., 1997.
- Larrick, Nancy (compiled by). *The Merry-Go-Round Poetry Book*. New York: Delacorte Press, 1989.
- Lewis, J. Patrick. *Doodie Dandies*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1998.
- Livingston, Myra Cohn. *Celebrations*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1985.
- Mc Connaughy, Holly Pill (edited by). *Favorite Poems for Children*. New York: Barnes & Noble Books, 1993.
- Mc Naughton, Colin. *There's An Awful Lot of Weirdos in Our Neighborhood*. Massachusetts: Candlewick, 2002.
- Moss, Jeff. *Bone Poems*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1997.
- Once Upon a Poem*. United Kingdom: The Chicken House, 2004.
- Prelutsky, Jack. *A Pizza the Size of the Sun*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1996.
- Prelutsky, Jack. *My Parents Think I'm Sleeping*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1985.
- Prelutsky, Jack. *Scranimals*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2005.
- Prelutsky, Jack. *The Dragons Are Singing Tonight*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1993.
- Prelutsky, Jack. *The New Kid on the Block*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1984.
- Prelutsky, Jack (selected by). *The Random House Book of Poetry for Children*. New York: Random House, 1983.
- Rogasky, Barbara (selected by). *Winter Poems*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1994.
- Romain, Trever. *The Little People's Guide to the Big World 2*. Texas: Bright Books, Inc., 1994.
- Schertle, Alice. *A Lucky Thing*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2001.
- Sendak, Maurice. *Chicken Soup with Rice*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1962.

- Silverstein, Shel. *A Light in the Attic*.
New York: Harper & Row, 1981.
- Silverstein, Shel. *Don't Bump the Glump!*
New York: Scholastic Inc., 2008.
- Silverstein, Shel. *Where the Sidewalk Ends*.
New York: Harper & Row, 1974.
- Sneve, Virginia Diving Hawk. *Dancing Teepees*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1989.
- Stevenson, James. *Cornflakes*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2000.
- Stevenson, James. *Popcorn*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1998.
- Sword, Elizabeth Hauge (edited by). *A Child's Anthology of Poetry*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1995.
- Viorst, Judith. *If I Were in Charge of the World*. New York: Aladdin Books, Macmillan Publishing Co., 1981.
- Webb, Kaye (edited by). *I Like This Poem*. Great Britain: Kestrel Books, 1979.

Poetry Links

Fizzy Funny Fuzzy- Fun Poetry for Kids

<http://www.fizzyfunnyfuzzy.com/>

Giggle Poetry

<http://www.gigglepoetry.com/>

Limerick Factory

http://www.learner.org/teacherslab/math/patterns/limerick/limerick_acttxt.html

Mrs. Caro's Poetry Downloads – 5 Stars

Templates for teaching and writing poetry

<http://mrscarosclass.com/poetry.htm>

Mother Goose Caboose

<http://www.moothergoosecaboose.com/indexfr.html>

Poetry Teacher.com

How to teach poetry, Poetry theater, and Poetry Activities

<http://www.poetryteachers.com/>

Poetry Zone – 5 Stars

<http://www.poetryzone.ndirect.co.uk/index2.htm>

Reading a-z.com

<http://www.readinga-z.com/poetry/>

Reading Lady.com

<http://www.readinglady.com/>

Rhyme Zone

Type in a word to find its rhymes, synonyms, definitions, and more:

<http://www.rhymezone.com/>

Teacher's Clubhouse – 5 Stars

A site for downloading elementary teaching resources

<http://www.teachersclubhouse.com/>

These poetry links are fantastic! We have included some sheets to give you just a taste of what's waiting for you to enjoy and explore.

Poets

Karla Kuskin

http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/poetry/karla_home.htm

Jean Marzolla

http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/poetry/jean_home.htm

Jack Prelutsky

http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/poetry/jack_home.htm

Shel Silverstein – 5 Stars

<http://www.shelsilverstein.com/indexSite.html>

More Fun Poetry Ideas

Poetry Bug

Poetry Folder

Poetry Literacy Bag

<http://www.teachersclubhouse.com/>

Poetry Posters

<http://www.teachersclubhouse.com/>

Poetry Corner

Poetry Window

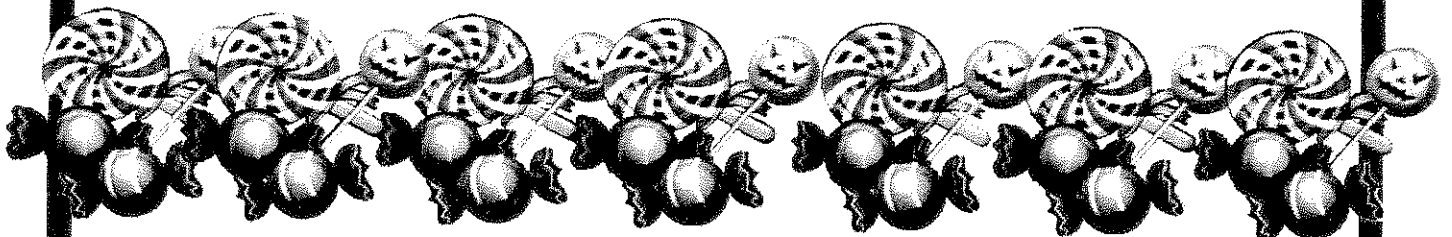
*NOTES

Limerick Poems

A **limerick** is a silly, sometimes nonsense poem, made of 5 lines. Lines 1, 2 and 5 rhyme and have the same number of syllables (usually 8 or 9), while lines 3 and 4 rhyme and have the same number of syllables (usually 5 or 6).

SAMPLE POEM:

There once was a girl named Sandy
She ate and ate all my candy
Quite soon she fell ill
And ill she is still
While I'm feeling fine and dandy!



Name: _____

Date: _____

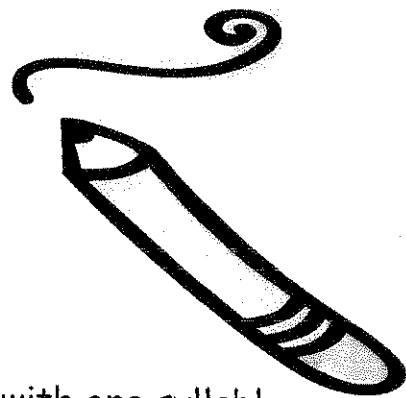
Limericks

A limerick is a whimsical poem with only five lines. This type of poem depends on rhythm and rhyme. Lines one, two, and five rhyme with each other. Lines three and four rhyme with each other. (AABBA) The first, second, and fifth lines all have this rhythm pattern: da DUM da da DUM da da DUM (notice there are 3 DUMS or beats). Say, "There once was a fellow named Tim" out loud. Now say, "da DUM da da DUM da da DUM" out loud. Notice that both have the same rhythm. The third and fourth lines have a different rhythm pattern: da DUM da da DUM (notice there are 2 DUMS or beats). Say, "He fell off the dock" out loud. Now say "da DUM da da DUM" out loud. Notice that both have the same rhythm. (A special thanks to www.gigglepoetry.com)

EXAMPLE:

A Clumsy Young Fellow Named Tim

1. There once was a fellow named Tim (A) (3 DUMs)
2. whose dad never taught him to swim. (A) (3 DUMs)
3. He fell off a dock (B) (2 DUMs)
4. and sunk like a rock. (B) (2 DUMs)
5. And that was the end of him. (A) (3 DUMs)



1. A good way to get started to pick a boy's or girl's name with one syllable.
(like Bill, Sue, Tim or Jill)

There once was a fellow (or young girl) named _____

2. Now make a list of words that rhyme with the last word in the first line:

3. Now write the second line using one of the rhyming words:

Who _____

4. Now think of an interesting story. What could happen to your person?

He (or She) _____

5. Now you need to go back to the list of "A" rhyming words to find one that can end the poem.

Name: _____

Date: _____

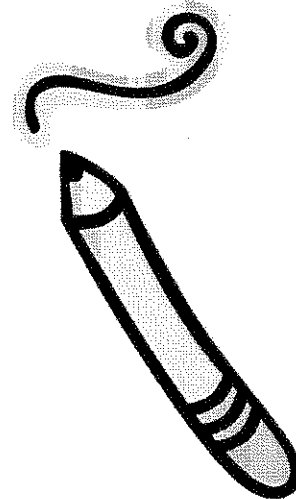
Couplets

Couplets are two lined poems with a simple rhyming pattern. Each line should be almost the same length and their endings rhyme with one another. Humor is often used in couplets.

EXAMPLE:

Roses are red, violets are blue,
Your feet stink, but I still love you!

Most people love baked beans and ham,
But mine are in the garbage can.



Larger poems can be made up of many couplets.

EXAMPLE:

I went to a party at the park,
When all of a sudden the lights went dark

Soon, my friends began to cry
Until I gave them some apple pie.

Create a couplet of your own. Then illustrate it in the box below.

Now Write your limerick in the space provided and check your rhyme (AABBA) and rhythm (DUMs).

Title

(How many DUMs? Should be three.)

A

(How many DUMs? Should be three.)

A

(How many DUMs? Should be two.)

B

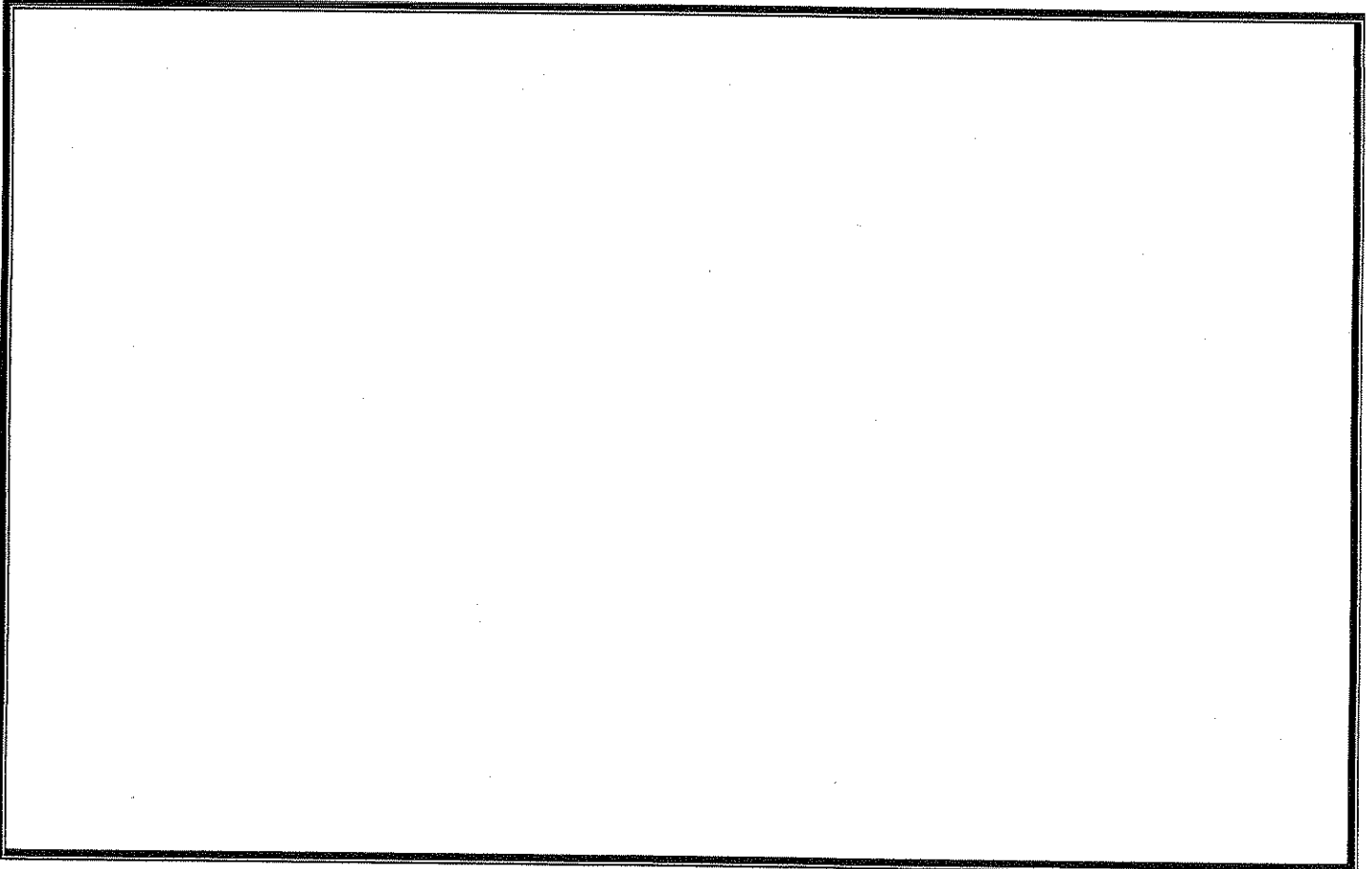
(How many DUMs? Should be two.)

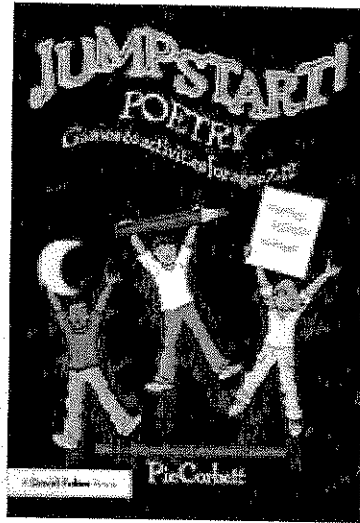
B

(How many DUMs? Should be three.)

A

Now illustrate your limerick in the box below.





BOOK Y Jumpstart! Poetry by Pie Corbett
(David Fulton Publishers) 200pp £11.99

Jumpstart! Poetry is about involving children as creative writers through writing poems. The book contains a bank of ideas that can be drawn upon when teaching poetry but also at other times to provide a source for creative writing that children relish. There are more than 100 quick warm-ups to fire the brain into a creative mood and to 'jumpstart' reading, writing and performing poetry in any key stage 1 or 2 classroom.

BOOK Y Black's Rhyming and Spelling Dictionary
by Pie Corbett and Ruth Thomson
(A & C Black)

A fantastic school resource. Every primary classroom should have half a dozen. (See the review in [Latest Poetry Books](#)) As well as a well laid out rhyming dictionary it contains hints on writing poems and lots of examples.

If you see any books you would like to buy - please buy them through us. The Poetry Zone carries no advertising and its only source of income is through its association with amazon. For American and other non-UK visitors you can still order from amazon.co.uk as your credit card will simply be debited in the appropriate currency. This is a chance to buy first-rate books that are not available in your own country - and amazon usually gives good discounts which will often offset the price of postage. To order a book simply click on it and you will be taken directly to the relevant amazon page.

If you have any books you'd like to recommend (or to review) please let us know. [top of page](#)

The Poetry Cone

THE TEACHING ZONE

Recommended Books

Recommended Books

Some of the best teaching books around

Children's Poetry Bookshelf

Information on the Poetry Book Society

See also - Latest Poetry Books.

Poetry book reviews with classroom guide.

B Y **Able Writers in Your School** by Brian Moses and Roger Stevens

Developing the Potential of Gifted Children in Primary Schools: A Practical Guide for Teachers.

(Brilliant Publications) 138pp £13.50

Able Writers in Your School will help you to develop the potential of your gifted pupils - and all the other pupils in your school as well. It passes on ideas, practical advice and lesson plans that the authors have found work well with brighter students. Over 70 inspirational examples of children's work show how the ideas work in practice and can raise the standard of children's work.



The Poetry Tree
Teaching Young Boys to Love Poetry
IBSC 16th Annual Conference
Presenters: Kay Carrio & Carole Rice
St. Mark's School of Texas

+ Discussing poetry ...

- ❖ Who can tell me in one sentence what this poem is all about?
- ❖ Is there something you particularly liked about this poem? Is there anything you disliked?
- ❖ Does this poem remind you of anything?
- ❖ Using your senses, what did you hear? see? taste?
- ❖ Does anything puzzle you about this poem?
- ❖ How does this poem make you feel?
- ❖ What did the poet do with words to hold your attention?
- ❖ Would you want to ask the poet anything about this poem?
- ❖ Would you like to read/listen to more poems by this poet? Why or why not?

+ Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening By Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know,
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fills up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.



+ Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.



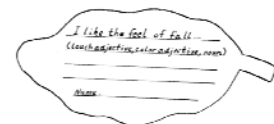
Poem
By Langston Hughes

I loved my friend.
He went away from me.
There's nothing more to say.
+ The poem ends,
Soft as it began –
I loved my friend.

+ Poetry Writing format ...

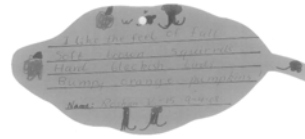
- Mini-lesson
- Discussion
- Modeling
- Rough draft
- Editing
- Copy over poem and add decorations
- Cut out
- Punch hole in top
- Inset a piece of yarn, 11-12 inches long

September



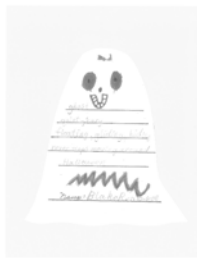
+ Poetry Writing format ...

- Hang item on the Poetry Tree for all to enjoy!



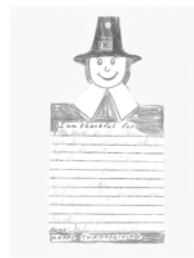
+ September

Leaf pattern



+ October

Ghost pattern



+ November

Pilgrim




+ December

Socking pattern




+ January

Snowman




+ February
Heart



+ March
Shamrock




+ April
Egg Pattern



+ May
Kite pattern

+ Poem of the Week



- ◆ Hook your boys by starting with humorous poems that rhyme
- ◆ Have fun with choral readings ~ the variations are limitless
- ◆ Use the poem to practice skills:
 - Find the nouns, verbs, and adjectives
 - Look for a synonym/antonym
- ◆ Recite the poem from memory

+ More Poetry Ideas ...

Poetry Corner	Poetry Folders	Poetry Bug
Poetry Window	Traveling Poetry Bag	Poetry Templates

+ Poetry Corner



+ Poetry Folder

Build a poetry folder ...

- Save memorized poems from throughout the year
- Number each poem as it is put into the folder for easy reference
- Share favorite poems as an extra classroom activity



+ Poetry Bug

◆Teacher hides the "Poetry Bug" in a boy's desk each morning.

◆The boy that catches the "Poetry Bug" shares a favorite poem.

◆The boy that catches the "Poetry Bug" selects poems from the Poetry Corner to read during D.E.A.R. time.



+ Poetry Window

Boys collect "seeds" for future writing!



+ Traveling Poetry Bag

School-Home Connection

- Includes: Letter to Parents, 2-3 poetry books, set of choice task cards, rhyming words matching game, and journal



+ Poetry Templates

My Five Senses Poem
By: _____

 I smell _____

I hear _____ 

 I taste _____

I feel _____ 

 I see _____

+ Alligator Pie

Alligator, pie alligator pie.

If I don't get some I think I'm gonna die.

Give away the green grass, give away the sky.

But don't give away my alligator pie.



Alligator stew, alligator stew.

If I don't get some I don't know what I'll do.

Give away my furry hat, give away my shoe.

But don't give away my alligator stew.

+ Alligator _____

Alligator _____, alligator _____,

If I don't get some I think I'm gonna _____,

Give away my _____, give away the _____,

But don't give away my alligator _____.

+ Poetry Websites

Poet - Jack Prelutsky	Poet - *Shel Silverstein
Mrs. Caro's *Poetry Templates	Teacher's Clubhouse *Poetry Posters
Reading A-Z Poetry Lesson ideas	Poetry Teachers.com Lesson ideas
Rhyme-Time Online Writing Tool	*Poetry Zone Lesson ideas and resources



■ If you're looking for ideas,
be sure to include some of
these websites!