

Dressing Up

When I dress up
I always feel
just like a queen
in Mum's high heels.

I want to look
my queenly best,
so I'll put on
Mum's new long dress.

Crown jewels next.
Now, let me see,
where does Mum keep
her jewellery?

On royal lips,
the queen then slicks
a nice thick layer
of Mum's lipstick.

Uh oh! Here's Mum,
I fear the worst.
The queen forgot
to ask Mum first.

Jane Clarke

There Was A Naughty Boy

There was a naughty Boy,
And a naughty Boy was he,
He ran away to Scotland
The people for to see –

Then he found
That the ground
Was as hard,
That a yard
Was as long,
That a song
Was as merry,
That a cherry
Was as red –
That lead
Was as weighty,
That fourscore
Was as eighty,
That a door
Was as wooden
As in England –
So he stood in his shoes
And he wonder'd,
He wonder'd,
He stood in his shoes
And he wonder'd.

Just a Skin Thing

This is the skin
That I've grown up in.
I've filled every part
And look pretty smart.
It starts at my head,
Reaches down to my feet,
It stretches so I can
Sit down on a seat.
It's got a few freckles
That others can see,
And fingerprint markings
To prove that I'm me.
Skin comes in all sizes
And colours and shades,
And proves, without doubt,
We're all brilliantly made!

Coral Rumble

Nut Tree

Small, brown, hard, round,
The nut is lying underground.
Now a shoot begins to show.
Now the shoot begins to grow,
Tall, taller, tall as can be.
The shoot is growing into a tree,
And branches grow and stretch and spread
With twigs and leaves above your head.
And on a windy autumn day
The nut tree bends, the branches sway,
The leaves fly off and whirl around,
And nuts go tumbling to the ground,
Small, brown, hard, round.

Julia Donaldson

Jemima

Running down the garden path
Jemima, seven years old
Lifts her eyes to watch the sun
Drown in clouds of gold.
Sees her old friend smiling down
Through the chestnut tree
Her face among the branches smiles
White as ivory.
Jemima tells her secrets
Her breath is like a sigh
Wishing on a star that falls
Dying through the sky.
Jemima up the evening path
Through twilight bright as noon
Tells anyone who'll listen,
'I've been talking to the moon.'

Gareth Owen

I Am a Princess

Hello.

I am pleased to meet you

I am a princess

And I have a lot of rules

Which you must obey

Whenever you see me

You must bow or curtsey

You must never argue with me

Because a princess is always right

You must never wear a dress

That is prettier than mine

I choose the game we will play

And it is always my turn first

Remember. You are very lucky

To be playing with me.

And I have to win every game.

But before you go

Could you please explain

Why I have no friends?

Roger Stevens

I Do As Simon Says

I'm nobody's dog but Simon's
I do as Simon says,
If Simon says, Delilah, dance!
I'd be up on my two hind legs.

But Simon says, Delilah, sit!
He says, Delilah, stay!
Yet if he said, Delilah, sing!
I'd somehow find a way.

I'm nobody's dog but Simon's
I do as Simon says,
He sometimes says, Delilah, fetch!
And I save Simon's legs.

But Simon is no tyrant,
He takes me out for walks.
I always keep one step ahead
And listen as he talks.

My watchword is Obedience,
And Simon's love, my prize;
We go together everywhere
For I am Simon's eyes.

Celia Warren

Little Raindrops

Oh, where do you come from,
You little drops of rain,
Pitter patter, pitter patter,
Down the window pane?

They won't let me walk,
And they won't let me play,
And they won't let me go
Out of doors at all today.

They put away my playthings
Because I broke them all,
And then they locked up all my bricks,
And took away my ball.

Tell me, little raindrops,
Is that the way you play,
Pitter patter, pitter patter,
All the rainy day?

They say I'm very naughty,
But I've nothing else to do
But sit here at the window;
I should like to play with you.

The little raindrops cannot speak,
But "pitter pitter pat"
Means, "We can play on this side,
Why can't you play on that?"

Aunty Joan

When Aunty Joan became a phone,
She sat there not saying a thing.
The doctor said, shaking his head,
‘You’ll just have to give her a ring.’

We had a try, but got no reply.
The tone was always engaged.
‘She’s just being silly,’ said Uncle Billy.
Slamming down the receiver enraged.

‘Alas, I fear,’ said the engineer,
Who was called in to inspect her,
‘I’ve got no choice. She’s lost her voice.
I shall have to disconnect her.’

The phone gave a ring. ‘You’ll do no such thing,’
Said Aunty’s voice on the line.
‘I like being a phone. Just leave me alone
Or else I’ll dial nine, nine, nine!’

John Foster

Big Red Boots

Big red boots, big red boots.
One of them squeaks and the other one toots,
One of them hops and the other one stamps.
Big red boots take long, wet tramps.

Boots, boots, big red boots.
One of them squeaks and the other one toots.

Big red boots on busy little feet
Start out shiny, clean and neat.
Big red boots, oh, yes, yes, yes,
End up muddy in a terrible mess.

Boots, boots, big red boots.
One of them squeaks and the other one toots.

Big red boots, big red boots,
Squelch through mud and trample roots.
Big red boots say, "Look! Oh gosh!
What a great puddle there... Yay! SPLOSH!"

Tony Mitton

The Soldiers Came

The soldiers came
and dropped their bombs.
The soldiers didn't take long
to bring the forest down.

With the forest gone
the birds are gone.
With the birds gone
who will sing their song?

But the soldiers forgot
to take the forest
out of the people's hearts.
The soldiers forgot
to take the birds
out of the people's dreams.
And in the people's dreams
the birds still sing their song.

Now the children
are planting seedlings
to help the forest grow again.
They eat a simple meal of soft rice
wrapped in banana leaf.
And the land welcomes their smiling
like a shower of rain.

John Agard

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I'm not feeling well
I have an infection
I can't seem to download
Or make a connection.

It was an attachment
Which caused me to fail
Now I can't surf the web
Or send an email.

I'm starting to sink
I've no Internet Link
And instead of completing
I just keep deleting.

Don't call me a dimwit
I've had a breakdown
Please, Close and Exit
Please! Shut me down!

I've lost all my functions
So please disconnect
And call the technicians
I'm totally wrecked.

The domain providers
Have threatened to fire-us
For I'm a computer
Who caught a virus!

I Don't Want to Go into School

I don't want to go into school today, Mum,
I don't feel like schoolwork today.
Oh, don't make me go into school today, Mum,
Oh, please let me stay home and play.

But you must go to school, my cherub, my lamb.
If you don't it will be a disaster.
How would they manage without you, my sweet,
After all, you are the headmaster!

Colin McNaughton

My Hat!

Here's my hat.
It holds my head,
the thoughts I've had
and the things I've read.

It keeps out the wind.
It keeps off the rain.
It hugs my hair
and warms my brain.

There's me below it,
the sky above it.
It's my lid.
And I love it.

Tony Mitton

Favouritism

When we caught measles
It wasn't fair -
My brother collected
Twice his share.

He counted my spots:
'One hundred and twenty!'
Which sounded to me
As if I had plenty.

Then I counted his -
And what do you think?
He'd two hundred and thirty-eight,
Small, round and pink!

I felt I'd been cheated
So 'Count mine again!'
I told him, and scowled
So he dared not complain.

'One hundred and twenty' -
The same as before...
In our house, he's YOUNGEST
And he ALWAYS gets more!

Trevor Harvey

I Opened a Book

I opened a book and in I strode.
Now nobody can find me.
I've left my chair, my house, my road,
My town and my world behind me.

I'm wearing the cloak, I've slipped on the ring,
I've swallowed the magic potion.
I've fought with a dragon, dined with a king
And dived in a bottomless ocean.

I opened a book and made some friends.
I shared their tears and laughter
And followed their road with its bumps and bends
To the happily ever after.

I finished my book and out I came.
The cloak can no longer hide me.
My chair and my house are just the same,
But I have a book inside me.

Julia Donaldson

Blame

Graham, look at Maureen's leg,
She says you tried to tattoo it!
I did, Miss, yes - with my biro,
But Jonathan told me to do it.

Graham, look at Peter's sock,
It's got a burn-hole through it!
It was just an experiment, Miss, with the lens.
Jonathan told me to do it.

Alice's bag is stuck to the floor,
Look, Graham, did you glue it?
Yes, but I never thought it would work,
And Jonathan told me to do it.

Jonathan, what's all this I hear
About you and Graham Prewitt?
Well, Miss, it's really more his fault:
He tells me to tell him to do it!

Allan Ahlberg

If I Were a Shape

If I were a shape

I'd be a rectangle

I'd be a snooker table with Steve Davies
potting the black

I'd be a football pitch where Spurs would
always be winning,

I'd be a chocolate bar that you could never
finish

If I were a rectangle.

If I were a circle,

I'd be a hoop rolling down a mountainside,

I'd be a wheel on a fast Ferrari

I'd be a porthole in Captain Nemo's
submarine

If I were a circle.

If I were a cone

I'd be a black hat on a witch's head,

I'd be a warning to motorists, one of
thousands,

I'd be a tooth in a T. rex's jaw,

If I were a cone.

But if I were a star...

I'd be Robbie Williams.

Brian Moses

Python Poem

I slither round my tank of glass,
I crush the tufts of plastic grass,
I watch the scaly minutes pass
And grow, Grow, GROW.

I see another dawn begin,
I shed my tight and tattered skin,
I smile my wide and hungry grin
And grow, Grow, GROW.

My world is small but I am king,
I glitter like a jewelled ring,
I gulp a small and feathered thing
And grow, Grow, GROW.

Human slaves, beware, beware!
Approach my castle if you dare,
And watch your little ones with care
I GROW, GROW, GROW!!!

Clare Bevan

My Mum's Put Me on the Transfer List

On Offer:

One nippy striker, ten years old

Has scored seven goals this season

Has nifty footwork and a big smile

Knows how to dive in the penalty box

Can get filthy and muddy within two minutes

Guaranteed to wreck his kit each week

This is a FREE TRANSFER

But he comes with running expenses

Weeks of washing shirts and shorts

Socks and vests, a pair of trainers

Needs to scoff huge amounts

Of chips and burgers, beans and apples

Pop and cola, crisps and oranges

Endless packets of chewing gum.

This offer open until the end of the season

I'll have him back then;

At least until the cricket starts.

Any takers?

David Harmer