

What to do today

IMPORTANT Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and any weblinks or use of internet.

1. Read a set of poems

- Read the four nature poems: *The Garden Year; First Primrose; Colouring In; Autumn Fires*.
- You could also challenge yourself to read *Snow in the Suburbs*.
- Choose your favourite of these poems. Why do you like it?

2. Answer questions about your favourite poem

- Use *Poetry Questions* and think about your favourite poem.
- Read each of the sets of questions, think about your answer and then carefully write it down.

Share your answers with a grown-up. Show them the poems and ask them which their favourite would be.

3. Practise reading your favourite poem out loud

- Read the *Top tips for reading a poem aloud*.
- Practise reading your poem out loud and then share your reading with somebody else.

Try these Fun-Time Extras

- Can you record your poetry reading and send it to someone else?
- Read *Top tips for learning a poem by heart* and try to memorise some or all of your poem.
- Make a plan for your own poem about months of the year. Write your ideas on *Poem Ideas* and then try writing your poem.

The Garden Year

January brings the snow,
Makes our feet and fingers glow.

February brings the rain,
Thaws the frozen lake again.

March brings breezes, loud and shrill,
To stir the dancing daffodil.

April brings the primrose sweet,
Scatters daisies at our feet.

May brings flocks of pretty lambs
Skipping by their fleecy dams.

June brings tulips, lilies, roses,
Fills the children's hands with posies.

Hot July brings cooling showers,
Apricots, and gillyflowers.

August brings the sheaves of corn,
Then the harvest home is borne.

Warm September brings the fruit;
Sportsmen then begin to shoot.

Fresh October brings the pheasant;
Then to gather nuts is pleasant.

Dull November brings the blast;
Then the leaves are whirling fast.

Chill December brings the sleet,
Blazing fire, and Christmas treat.

By Sara Coleridge



Top tips for reading a poem aloud

- Work on the **tricky words**. Find out what they mean and how they are said. Practise saying them.
- Look for the **full stops**. Make sentences flow to the full stop, even when there's a new line.
- **Slow down**. Speak slowly when you're reading a poem, so that others can hear the words.
- **Project your voice**. Imagine someone on the other side of the room and speak to them.
- **Practise**. Read and read and read your poem, so that you get better each time.



Top tips for learning a poem by heart

- Read the poem aloud several times slowly.
- Copy the poem out a couple of times.
- Be strategic. Pick a poem with a pattern, metre and rhyme are much easier to learn by heart than free verse.
- Learn and internalise the “story” in the poem
- Understand the poem by knowing every word’s meaning
- With a card, cover everything but the first line of the poem. Read it. Look away, see the line in the air, and say it. Look back. Repeat until you’ve “got it.”
- Uncover the second line. Learn it as you did the first line, but also add second line to first, until you’ve got the two.
- Then it’s on to three. Always repeat the first line on down, till the whole poem sings.



Poem Ideas

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