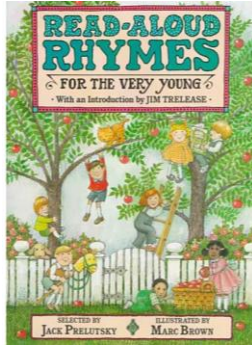


POEMS FROM:

Read-Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young,
selected by Jack Prelutsky.



- Arranged by category, with the page number they are on in the book next to the author's name.
- Ready to print out to use on the overhead projector, or you can create an Anchor Chart with a poem by writing it in large print on chart paper.
- Enjoy these fun poems with children!

Categories:

- Animals – p. 2-9
- Daily Activities – p. 10- 16
- Nature
- Seasons and Holidays

ANIMALS

The Elephant Carries a Great Big Trunk

The elephant carries a great big trunk;
He never packs it with clothes;
It has no lock and it has no key,
But he takes it wherever he goes.

Anonymous- 10

The House Cat

The house cat sits
And smiles and sings.
He knows a lot
Of secret things.

Annette Wynne- 18

The Little Turtle

There was a little turtle
He lived in a box.
He swam in a puddle.
He climbed on the rocks.

He snapped at a mosquito.
He snapped at a flea.
He snapped at a minnow.
And he snapped at me.

He caught the mosquito.
He caught the flea.
He caught the minnow.
But he didn't catch me.

Vachel Lindsay - 20

The Frog on the Log

There once

Was a green

Little frog, frog, frog -

Who played

In the wood

On a log, log, log!

A screech owl

Sitting

In a tree, tree, tree -

Came after

The frog

With a scree, scree, scree!

When the frog

Heard the owl

In a flash, flash, flash -

He leaped

In the pond

With a splash, splash, splash!

When You Talk to a Monkey

When you talk to a monkey
 He seems very wise.
He scratches his head,
 And he blinks both his eyes;
But he won't say a word.
 He just swings on a rail
And makes a big question mark
 Out of his tail.

Rowena Bennett - 22

The Butterfly

Up and down the air you float
Like a little fairy boat;
I should like to sail the sky,
Gliding like a butterfly!

Clinton Scollard - 33

Mary Middling

Mary Middling had a pig,
Not very little and not very big,
Not very pink, not very green,
Not very dirty, not very clean,
Not very good, not very naughty,
Not very humble, not very haughty,
Not very thin, not very fat;
Now what would I give for a pig like that.

Rose Fyleman - 36

Quack, Quack!

We have two ducks. One blue. One black.
And when our blue duck goes, "Quack-quack!"
our black duck quickly quack-quacks back.
The quacks Blue quacks make her quite a quacker
but Black is a quicker quacker-backer.

Dr. Seuss - 43

Fish

The little fish are silent
As they swim round and round.
Their mouths are ever talking
A speech without a sound.

Now aren't the fishes funny
To swim in water clear
And talk with words so silent
That nobody can hear?

Arthur S. Bourinot - 44

Way Down South

Way down South where bananas grow,
A grasshopper stepped on an elephant's toe.
The elephant said, with tears in his eyes,
"Pick on somebody your own size."

Anonymous - 46

The Squirrel

Whisky, frisky
Hippity hop,
Up he goes
To the treetop!

Whirly, twirly,
Round and round,
Down he scampers
To the ground.

Furly, curly,
What a tail!
Tall as a feather,
Broad as a sail!

Where's his supper?
In the shell,
Snappity, crackity,
Out it fell!

Anonymous - 58

Fuzzy Wuzzy, Creepy Crawly

Fuzzy wuzzy, creepy crawly
Caterpillar funny,
You will be a butterfly
When the days are sunny.

Winging, flinging, dancing, springing
Butterfly so yellow,
You were once a caterpillar,
Wiggly, wiggly fellow.

Lillian Schulz - 62

Wish

If I could wish,
I'd be a fish
(For just a day or two)
To flip and flash
And dart and splash
And nothing else to do,
And never anyone to say,
"Are you quite sure you washed today?"
I'd like it, wouldn't you?

Dorothy Brown Thompson - 27

DAILY ACTIVITIES

I Can Be a Tiger

I can't go walking
When they say no,
And I can't go riding
Unless they go.
I can't splash puddles
In my shiny new shoes.
But I can be a tiger
Whenever I choose.

I can't eat peanuts
And I can't eat cake,
I have to go to bed
When they stay awake.
I can't bang windows
And I mustn't tease,
But I can be an elephant
As often as I please.

Milfred Leigh Anderson - 17

Hide-and-Seek Shadow

I walked with my shadow,
I ran with my shadow,
I danced with my shadow,
I did.

Then a cloud came over
And the sun went under
And my shadow stopped playing
And hid.

Margaret Hillert - 25

The Toaster

A silver-scaled Dragon with jaws flaming red
Sits at my elbow and toasts my bread.
I hand him fat slices, and then, one by one,
He hands them back when he sees they are done.

William Jay Smith - 35

The Very Nicest Place

The fish lives in the brook,
The bird lives in the tree,
But home's the very nicest place
For a little child like me.

Anonymous - 38

Mix a Pancake

Mix a pancake,
Stir a pancake,
Pop it in the pan;
Fry the pancake,
Toss the pancake
Catch it if you can.

Christina Rossetti - 50

Yellow butter

Yellow butter purple jelly red jam black bread

Spread it thick

Say it quick

Yellow butter purple jelly red jam black bread

Spread it thicker

Say it quicker

Yellow butter purple jelly red jam black bread

Now repeat it

While you eat it

Yellow butter purple jelly red jam black bread

Don't talk with your mouth full!

Mary Ann Hoberman- 67

Ten Fingers

I have ten little fingers
And they all belong to me.
I can make them do things.
Would you like to see?
I can shut them up tight
Or open them wide.
I can put them together
Or make them all hide.
I can mke them jump high,
I can make them jump low,
I can fold them quietly
And hold them just so.

Anonymous - 82

Wide awake

I have to jump up
Out of bed
And stretch my hands
And rub my head
And curl my toes
And yawn
And shake
Myself
All wide awake!

Myra Cohn Livingston - 82

Crayons

I've colored a picture with crayons
I'm not very pleased with the sun
I'd like it much stronger and brighter
And more like the actual one.
I've tried with the crayon that's yellow,
I've tried with the crayon that's red.
But none of it looks like the sunlight
I carry around in my head.

Marchette Chutte - 86

The Evening is Coming

The evening is coming.
The sun sinks to rest.
The birds are all flying
straight home to their nests.
"Caw, caw," says the crow
as he flies overhead.
It's time little children
were going to bed.

Here comes the pony.
His work is all done.
Down through the meadow
he takes a good run.
Up go his heels,
and down goes his head.
It's time little children
were going to bed.

Anonymous - 87

SEASONS & HOLIDAYS

Skeleton Parade

The skeletons are out tonight,
They march about the street
With bony bodies, bony heads
And bony hands and feet.

Bony bony bony bones
With nothing in between,
Up and down and all around
They march on Halloween.

Jack Prelutsky - 49

Some Things that Easter Brings

Easter duck and Easter chick,
Easter eggs with chocolate thick.

Easter hats for one and all,
Easter Bunny makes a call!

Happy Easter always brings
Such a lot of pleasant things.

Elsie Parrish - 57

December

All the months go past
 Each is like a guest;
December is the last,
 December is the best.
Each has lovely things,
 Each one is a friend.
But December brings
 Christmas at the end.

Rose Fyleman - 52

Ode to Spring

O spring, O spring,
You wonderful thing!
O spring, O spring, O spring!
O spring, O spring,
When the birdies sing
I feel like a king
 O spring!

Walter R. Brooks - 56

NATURE

Little Wind

Little wind, blow on the hill-top,
 Little wind, blow down the plain;
Little wind, blow up the sunshine,
 Little wind, blow off the rain.

Kate Greenway - 12

Sleeping Outdoors

Under the dark is a star,
Under the star is a tree,
Under the tree is a blanket,
And under the blanket is me

Marchette Chute - 65

Little Seeds

Little seeds we sow in spring,
growing while the robins sing,
give us carrots, peas and beans,
tomatoes, pumpkins, squash and greens.

And we pick them,
one and all,
through the summer,
through the fall.

Winter comes, then spring, and then
little seeds we sow again.

Else Holmelund Minarik - 14