



Poetry Recitation & Copywork

Poetry Selections

This session's featured poet is Lewis Carroll. We've included four poetry selections for your kids and teens to read, listen to, memorize, and recite. They are:

- Jabberwocky
- The Walrus and the Carpenter
- The Crocodile
- The Mouse's Tale

For copy work, we have included Zaner-Bloser style handwriting sheets for primary, elementary, and cursive, as well as college-ruled for older students. The poems we have chosen are:

- Jabberwocky
- The Crocodile
- The Mouse's Tale

"One of the secrets of life is that all that is really worth the doing is what we do for others."

~ Lewis Carroll



Lewis Carroll

January 27, 1832 – January 14, 1898

Lewis Carroll was a British author, mathematician, and logician who is best known for his masterpieces *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) and *Through the Looking-Glass* (1871).

Born Charles Lutwidge Dodgson on January 27th, 1832, he was the third of eleven children born to Frances Jane Lutwidge and the Reverend Charles Dodgson.

At an early age, Lewis showed signs of being a talented scholar as he excelled in school. He attended Christ Church at Oxford University from 1851 to 1854 where he achieved first-class honors in mathematics. After graduating, he became a mathematics lecturer at the same university.

Though his academic career was successful, Lewis Carroll is best remembered for his literary works. It wasn't until 1854 that Lewis began writing poetry and short stories under the pseudonym "Lewis Carroll." His first piece of work was a poem written for the magazine *The Train* in 1856, which was quickly followed by a number of other works.

His poetry often contained whimsical language filled with parody, puns, and nonsense. He was particularly known for writing parodies of traditional nursery rhymes, such as "You Are Old, Father William" and "The Walrus and the Carpenter". His most famous poem, "Jabberwocky," contained nonsense words such as "slithy," "toves," and "borogoves."

In the 1870s, his writings began to gain public attention. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* was published in 1865 and it quickly gained a cult following. *Through the Looking-Glass* followed six years later. These two works remain some of the most popular books ever written.

Lewis Carroll was also an accomplished photographer. He photographed many of his friends and family, including children such as Alice Liddell, who is rumored to have been the inspiration for his famous books. He enjoyed traveling around Europe and taking photographs during his journeys, many of which can still be seen today at museums.

Lewis Carroll died on January 14th, 1898, and is buried in Guildford, England. He left behind a legacy of literature, mathematics, and photography. His work continues to inspire generations of people around the world.

Lewis Carrol Selections

Jabberwocky

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.

"Beware the Jabberwock, my son!
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun
The frumious Bandersnatch!"

He took his vorpal sword in hand;
Long time the manxome foe he sought—
So rested he by the Tumtum tree
And stood awhile in thought.

And, as in uffish thought he stood,
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,
Came whiffling through the tulgey wood,
And burbled as it came!

One, two! One, two! And through and through
The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!
He left it dead, and with its head
He went galumphing back.

"And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?
Come to my arms, my beamish boy!
O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!"
He chortled in his joy.

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.

The Crocodile

How doth the little crocodile
Improve his shining tail,
And pour the waters of the Nile
On every golden scale!

How cheerfully he seems to grin,
How neatly spreads his claws,
And welcomes little fishes in,
With gently smiling jaws!

The Mouse's Tale

"Fury said to
a mouse, That
he met
in the
house,
'Let us
both go
to law:
I will
prosecute
you.—
Come, I'll
take no
denial;
We must
have a
trial:
For
really
this
morning
I've
nothing
to do.'
Said the
mouse to
the cur,
'Such a
trial,
dear sir,
With no
jury or
judge,
would be
wasting
our breath.'
"I'll be
judge,
I'll be
jury,'
Said
cunning
old Fury;
'I'll try
the whole
cause,
and
condemn
you
to
death.' "

The Walrus and The Carpenter

"The sun was shining on the sea,
Shining with all his might:
He did his very best to make
The billows smooth and bright —
And this was odd, because it was
The middle of the night.

The moon was shining sulkily,
Because she thought the sun
Had got no business to be there
After the day was done —
"It's very rude of him," she said,
"To come and spoil the fun."

The sea was wet as wet could be,
The sands were dry as dry.
You could not see a cloud, because
No cloud was in the sky:
No birds were flying overhead —
There were no birds to fly.

The Walrus and the Carpenter
Were walking close at hand;
They wept like anything to see
Such quantities of sand:
If this were only cleared away,'
They said, it would be grand!

If seven maids with seven mops
Swept it for half a year,
Do you suppose,' the Walrus said,
That they could get it clear?'
I doubt it,' said the Carpenter,
And shed a bitter tear.

O Oysters, come and walk with us!
The Walrus did beseech.
A pleasant walk, a pleasant talk,
Along the briny beach:
We cannot do with more than four,
To give a hand to each.'

The eldest Oyster looked at him,
But never a word he said:

The eldest Oyster winked his eye,
And shook his heavy head —
Meaning to say he did not choose
To leave the oyster-bed.

But four young Oysters hurried up,
All eager for the treat:
Their coats were brushed, their faces washed,
Their shoes were clean and neat —
And this was odd, because, you know,
They hadn't any feet.

Four other Oysters followed them,
And yet another four;
And thick and fast they came at last,
And more, and more, and more —
All hopping through the frothy waves,
And scrambling to the shore.

The Walrus and the Carpenter
Walked on a mile or so,
And then they rested on a rock
Conveniently low:
And all the little Oysters stood
And waited in a row.

The time has come,' the Walrus said,
To talk of many things:
Of shoes — and ships — and sealing-wax —
Of cabbages — and kings —
And why the sea is boiling hot —
And whether pigs have wings.

'But wait a bit,' the Oysters cried,
Before we have our chat;
For some of us are out of breath,
And all of us are fat!
No hurry!' said the Carpenter.
They thanked him much for that.

A loaf of bread,' the Walrus said,
Is what we chiefly need:
Pepper and vinegar besides
Are very good indeed —
Now if you're ready, Oysters dear,
We can begin to feed.'

But not on us!' the Oysters cried,
Turning a little blue.
After such kindness, that would be
A dismal thing to do!
The night is fine,' the Walrus said.
Do you admire the view?

It was so kind of you to come!
And you are very nice!
The Carpenter said nothing but
Cut us another slice:
I wish you were not quite so deaf —
I've had to ask you twice!

It seems a shame,' the Walrus said,
To play them such a trick,
After we've brought them out so far,
And made them trot so quick!
The Carpenter said nothing but
The butter's spread too thick!

I weep for you,' the Walrus said:
I deeply sympathize.'
With sobs and tears he sorted out
Those of the largest size,
Holding his pocket-handkerchief
Before his streaming eyes.

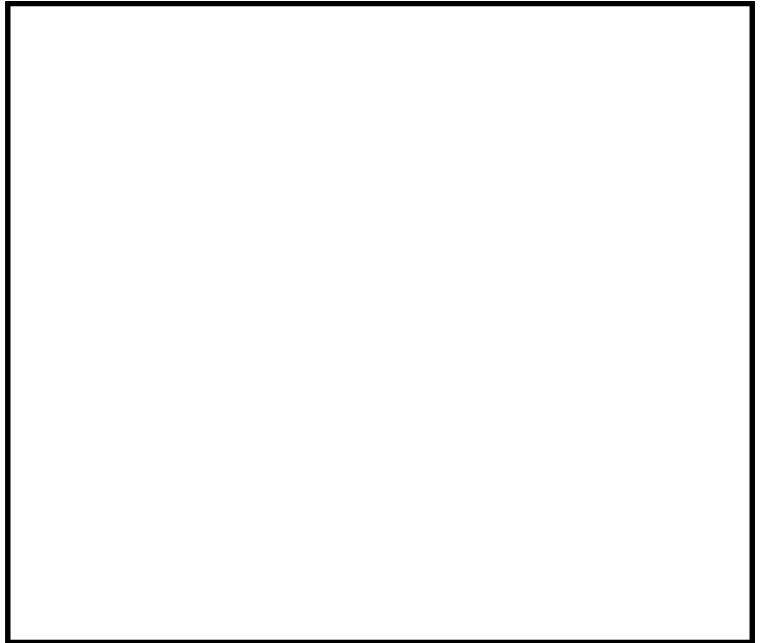
O Oysters,' said the Carpenter,
You've had a pleasant run!
Shall we be trotting home again?
But answer came there none —
And this was scarcely odd, because
They'd eaten every one."

Poetry Study

Title:

Type of Poem:

Use the box to at right to draw a picture of what the poem brings to mind.



Write one thing you liked and did not like about the poem:

Write three adjectives about the poem.

Compose a few lines of your own poem inspired by this work
