

SAMPLE PAGES
from
The Competitive Edge

Passing the
EOG 4 in READING

❖ *THIRD EDITION* ❖

by
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CPC

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Poems are works of literature that use language chosen for its sound and emotion. Poems are usually written in lines that have rhythm. Poems can be rhymed or unrhymed.

EXAMPLES

Rhymed Poetry

The little boy walked down to the sea.
He ran so fast he hurt his knee.

Unrhymed Poetry

Clouds like fluffy cotton
Floating on a bed of blue.

PRACTICE

Answer the questions about each selection.

SYSTEM

Every night my prayers I say,
And get my dinner every day;
And every day that I've been good,
I get an orange after food.

The child that is not clean and neat,
With lots of toys and things to eat,
He is a naughty child, I'm sure —
Or else his dear papa is poor.

1. What does the child do every night?

2. If the child has been good, what does he get after food?

3. Who is a naughty child?

THE COW

The friendly cow all red and white,
I love with all my heart:
She gives me cream with all her might,
To eat with apple-tart.

She wanders lowing here and there,
And yet she cannot stray,
All in the pleasant open air,
The pleasant light of day;

And brown by all the winds that pass
And wet with all the showers,
She walks among the meadow grass
And eats the meadow flowers.

4. What is the cow doing?

5. What color is the cow?

6. Why is the cow loved?

7. Where is the cow?

THE LAMPLIGHTER

My tea is nearly ready and the sun has left the sky,
It's time to take the window to see Leerie going by;
For every night at teatime and before you take your seat,
With lantern and with ladder he comes posting up the street.

Now Tom would be a driver and Maria go to sea,
And my papa's a banker and as rich as he can be;
But I, when I am stronger and can choose what I'm to do,
O Leerie, I'll go round at night and light the lamps with you!

For we are very lucky, with a lamp before the door,
And Leerie stops to light it as he lights so many more;
and O! before you hurry by with ladder and with light,
O Leerie, see a little child and nod to him to-night!

8. Who goes by every night at teatime?

9. What does Leerie always carry?

10. What would be papa's job?

11. What would Leerie do when he sees the child?

12. Why are they lucky?

GIRLS AND BOYS COME OUT TO PLAY

Girls and boys, come out to play,
The moon doth shine as bright as day,
Leave your supper and leave your sleep,
And come with your playfellows into the street.

- 5 Come with a whoop or come with a call,
Come with a goodwill or not at all.
Up the ladder and down the wall,
A halfpenny roll will serve us all.
You find milk and I'll find flour,
10 And we'll have pudding in half an hour!

13. How does the moon shine?

14. Where must you come with your playfellows?

15. According to line 8 of this selection, what will serve us all?

16. What must the girls and boys do?

TRAVEL

The railroad track is miles away,
And the day is loud with voices speaking,
Yet there isn't a train goes by all day
But I hear it's whistles shrieking.

All night there isn't a train goes by
Though the night is still for sleep and dreaming
But I see its cinders red on the sky
And hear its engine steaming.

My heart is warm with the friends I make,
And better friends I'll not be knowing,
Yet there isn't a train I wouldn't take,
No matter where it's going.

17. Where are the railroad tracks?

18. How do the cinders look?

19. What makes the heart warm?

TREES

The Oak is called the king of trees,
The Aspen quivers in the breeze,
The Poplar grows up straight and tall,
The Peach tree spreads along the wall,
5 The Sycamore gives pleasant shade,
The Willow droops in watery glade,
The Fir tree useful timber gives,
The Beech amid the forest lives.

20. The sycamore gives what?

21. Which tree grows up straight and tall?

22. According to line 6 of this selection, what does the willow do?

23. Which tree is the king of trees?

REVIEW

Answer the “poetry” questions.

I HAD A LITTLE PIG

I had a little pig,
I fed him in a trough,
He got so fat
His tail dropped off.
So I got me a hammer,
And I got me a nail,
And I made my little pig
A brand-new tail.

1. What was used to feed the little pig?
 - a. a hammer
 - b. a trough
 - c. a nail
 - d. a tail
2. What caused the pig’s tail to drop off?
 - a. He ate in a new trough.
 - b. He got hit by a hammer.
 - c. He came too close to a knife.
 - d. He got too fat.
3. What was made for the little pig?
 - a. a trough
 - b. a hammer
 - c. a brand-new tail
 - d. a nail

Chapter 8

IF NO ONE EVER MARRIES ME

If no one ever marries me —
And I don't see why they should,
For nurse says I'm not pretty,
And I'm seldom very good —

If no one ever marries me
I shan't mind very much,
I shall buy a squirrel in a cage
And a little rabbit-hutch;

I shall have a cottage near a wood,
And a pony all my own
And a little lamb, quite clean and tame,
That I can take to town.

And when I'm getting really old —
At twenty-eight or nine —
I shall buy a little orphan-girl
And bring her up as mine.

4. What did nurse say would keep the girl from getting married?
 - a. She's near a wood.
 - b. She's not pretty and seldom good.
 - c. She's quite clean and tame.
 - d. She's twenty-nine.

5. Based on the information in the selection, who is the speaker?
 - a. the squirrel
 - b. a little lamb
 - c. a little orphan-girl
 - d. I

6. When does the girl consider herself old?
 - a. when she's twenty-eight or nine
 - b. when no one marries me
 - c. when she lives in a cottage
 - d. when she buys a squirrel

7. According to the selection, the girl will buy a little rabbit-hutch, a squirrel in a cage, and _____.
 - a. a nurse
 - b. a little town
 - c. a little orphan-girl
 - d. a wood

PORTRAIT BY A NEIGHBOR

Before she has her floor swept
 Or her dishes done,
 Any day you'll find her
 A-sunning in the sun!

It's long after midnight
 Her key's in the clock,
 And you never see her chimney smoke
 Till past ten o'clock.

She digs in her garden
 With a shovel and a spoon,
 She weeds her lazy lettuce
 By the light of the moon.

She walks up the walk
 Like a woman in a dream,
 She forgets she borrowed butter
 And pays you back cream!

Her lawn looks like a meadow,
 And if she mows the place
 She leaves the clover standing
 And the Queen Anne's Lace!

8. Where do you find her before the
 floor is swept and the dishes
 done?

- a. in her garden
- b. a-sunning in the sun
- c. in the meadow
- d. in a dream

9. What was in the clock?

- a. keys
- b. shovel
- c. dishes
- d. spoon

10. She walks like a woman in a ____ .

- a. chimney
- b. meadow
- c. clover
- d. dream

11. When does she weed her garden?

- a. in the morning
- b. at night
- c. with a shovel and spoon
- d. lazy lettuce

12. When will her chimney smoke?

- a. by the light of the moon
- b. in the meadow
- c. after ten o'clock
- d. midnight

13. What does she leave standing
 when she mows the place?

- a. the meadow
- b. butter and cream
- c. a dream
- d. clover and Queen Anne's Lace

THE SECRET

We have a secret, just we three,
The robin, and I, and the sweet
 cherry-tree;
The bird told the tree, and the tree
 told me,
And nobody knows it but just us
 three.

5 But of course the robin knows it
 best,
Because he built the — I shan't tell
 the rest;
And laid the four little — something
 — in it -
I'm afraid I shall tell it every minute.

But if the tree and the robin don't
 peep,

10 I'll try my best the secret to keep;
Though I know when the little birds
 fly about
Then the whole secret will be out.

14. Based on the information in line 6,
what was built?
a. a tree
b. a nest
c. a secret
d. something

15. What do you think the robin built?
a. three
b. secret
c. tree
d. nest

16. Who told her secret to the tree?
a. I
b. little birds
c. the bird
d. sweet cherries

17. What was "I" afraid of?
a. telling the secret
b. flying away
c. building a nest
d. robin's peeping

18. According to line 11, when will the
secret be out?
a. when the nest is built
b. when the robins peep
c. when the cherries are ripe
d. when the little birds fly away

THE SILENT SNAKE

The birds go fluttering in the air,
The rabbits run and skip,
Brown squirrels race along the bough,
The May-flies rise and dip;
But, whilst these creatures play and
leap,
The silent snake goes creepy-creep!

The birdies sing and whistle loud,
The busy insects hum,
The squirrels chat, the frogs say
“Croak!”
But the snake is always dumb.
With not a sound through grasses
deep
The silent snake goes creep-creep!

19. Where were the squirrels?
a. in the air
b. in the grass
c. along the bough
d. singing in the tree
20. What were the May-flies doing?
a. running and skipping
b. singing and whistling
c. humming
d. rising and dipping
21. Who was going creepy-creep?
a. the birds
b. the snake
c. the squirrels
d. the May-flies

22. Which word best describes the snake?
a. brown
b. silent
c. deep
d. busy

Chapter 8

ESCAPE AT BEDTIME

The lights from the parlour and kitchen
shone out

Through the blinds and the windows
and bars;

And high overhead and all moving
about,

There were thousands of millions of
stars.

There ne'er were such thousands of
leaves on a tree,

Nor of people in church or the Park,
As the crowds of the stars that looked
down upon me,

And that glittered and winked in the
dark.

The Dog, and the Plough, and the
Hunter, and all,

And the star of the sailor, and Mars,
These shone in the sky, and the pail by
the wall

Would be half-full of water and stars.

They saw me at last, and they chased
me with cries,

And they soon had me packed into
bed;

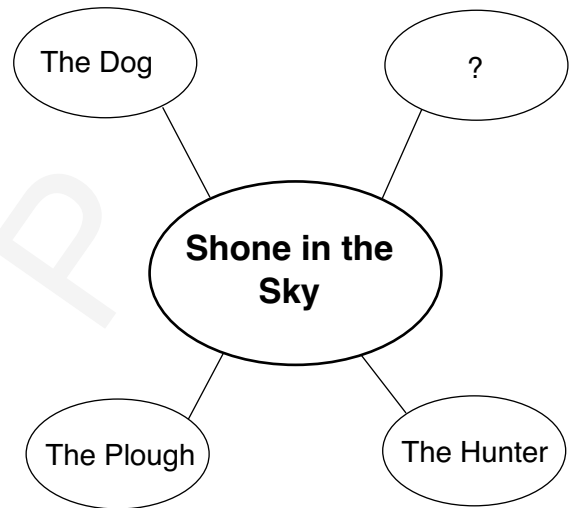
But the glory kept shining and bright in
my eyes,

And the stars going round in my head.

23. What was high overhead?
- blinds
 - millions of stars
 - windows
 - leaves

24. What did the stars do in the dark?
- round in my head
 - half-full of water
 - star of the sailor
 - glittered and winked

25. Which of the following belongs in the empty circle in the graphic organizer?



- the blinds
- lights in the parlour
- water
- Mars