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How to use this book:

These beautiful poems can be read aloud in any order, and can be returned to often to be enjoyed for years to come.

The poems and questions grow steadily harder in this book. Therefore, children are advised to do the worksheets in order, and to make sure they understand any mistakes before moving on to the next pages.

Readings of these poems can be heard at www.i-learner.edu.hk/rosebud



Eletelephony

By Laura Elizabeth Richards

Once there was an elephant,
 Who tried to use the telephant—
 No! No! I mean an elephone
 Who tried to use the telephone—
 (Dear me! I am not certain quite
 That even now I've got it right.)
Howe'er it was, he got his trunk
 Entangled in the telephunk;
 The more he tried to get it free,
 The louder buzzed the telephee—
 (I fear I'd better drop the song
 Of elephop and telephong!)

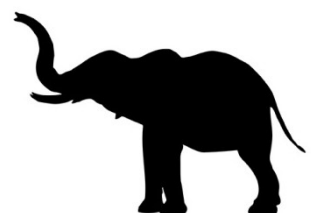
Entangled =
 tangled and
 twisted in
 something

Rhymes

You probably know that rhyming words have the same sound at the **end** (e.g. ten and men). When we talk about the rhyming words in a poem, we need to think about the words at the end of each line.

You can see that there are lots of pairs of rhyming words in this poem. The first rhyming pair has been connected below. What is the second rhyming pair? Can you connect them?

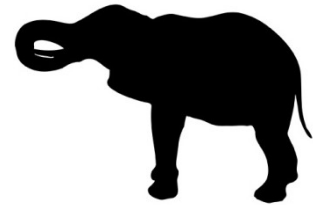
Once there was an elephant,
 Who tried to use the telephant—
 No! No! I mean an elephone
 Who tried to use the telephone—



In this poem, there are lots of made up words. This makes it very easy for the poet to create rhymes!

1 What actual words do these made up words from the poem rhyme with? Fill in the blanks. The first one has been done for you.

- Telephant Elephant
- Elephone _____
- Telephunk _____
- Telephee _____
- Telephong _____



2 Can you find one more made-up word in this poem? _____

Nonsense Poems

On page 18 of this workbook, you can see a poem called *Humpty Dumpty's Song*, and on page 30, you can see one called *The Owl and The Pussycat*. Just like *Eletelephony*, these poem use lots of silly ideas and some made up words. All of these poems are a type of poem called a **nonsense poem**. This is a very funny type of poem that is popular in English.

1 Here's another example of one that you might know. **Can you underline all of the nonsense parts of it** (the parts that make no sense and are silly)?

Hey diddle diddle,
 The cat and the **fiddle**,
 The cow jumped over the moon.
 The little dog laughed,
 To see such a sight,
 And the dish ran away with the spoon.

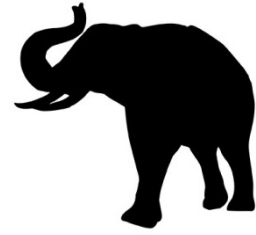
Fiddle = an old word for violin

2 Do you like nonsense poems? Why / why not?

What Happened?

1 Why did the elephant find it hard to use the telephone?

- a He didn't have fingers to pick it up.
- b His ears were too big.
- c His trunk got tangled in the phone.
- d He didn't have any friends to call.



2 Can you put the things that happened in the poem into the right order? Put the numbers 1-3 on the lines.

___ The elephant got his trunk tangled in the telephone.

___ An elephant tried to use the telephone.

___ When the elephant tried to get untangled, the phone got louder.

3 Draw a picture of the elephant at the end of this poem:



Syllables

Do you know what syllables are? They are the beats of a word. This gives a poem its rhythm.

Cup has one syllable: cup.

Table has two syllables: ta-ble.

Telephone has three syllables: te-le-phone.

1 How many syllables does **elephant** have? _____

2 Can you count the syllables in the poem's first line?

Once there was an elephant = _____ syllables

3 Now can you try it for the first four lines?

Once there was an elephant, _____

Who tried to use the telephant— _____

No! No! I mean an elephone _____

Who tried to use the telephone— _____

4 There is one line in this poem that's a little strange. Can you count the syllables in this one?

Howe'er it was, he got his trunk _____

(This one might be a bit hard to count. The word **Howe'er** only has two syllables. The poet has sneakily chopped one syllable out because the word **however** is too long for this line!)

5 Can you write two lines of your own with eight syllables in each?
