

NOTES

Rhyme

Punctuated correctly, every lady does in fact have twenty nails:

Every lady in the land
Has twenty nails: upon each hand
Five, and twenty on hands and feet;
All this is true without deceit.

The Shel Silverstein poem is a quatrain (about the content of the picture) and a rhyming couplet (when the topic shifts to the reader). There are other poems with far more intricate rhyme schemes.

Haiku

I have tried to find original haiku about the weather which when translated keep the correct number of syllables. This is difficult. Note that the second line of “The banana tree” has only six syllables.

Riddles

The example of an Anglo-Saxon riddle on the work sheet illustrates the style of poetry with four accented syllables per line, caesurae and alliteration. The style is easier to see in the following Anglo-Saxon verse form of the jingle “Old King Cole”:

Cole was the King; he was keen and merry;
Mirthful he was, with minstrels in mead-hall.
He called for his cup; he called for his pipe
His fiddlers were three, and fine was their trilling.

The answer to the Anglo-Saxon riddle is an iceberg.
Jennifer Hind, “Notes,” *The Royal Gazette*, Bermuda, 2003.

The answer to the modern riddle is a newspaper.

Here are two other Anglo-Saxon riddles:

Their dark bodies, dun-coated,
when the breeze bears them up over the backs of the hills
are black, diminutive.

Bold singers,
they go in companies, call out loudly;
they tread the timbered cliff, and at time the eaves
of men’s houses.

How do they call themselves?
(blackbirds)

I heard of a wonder, of words moth-eaten;
that is a strange thing, I thought, weird
that a man’s song be swallowed by a worm,
his binded sentences, his bedside stand-by
rustled in the night – and the robber-guest
not one whit the wiser for the words he had mumbled.
(bookworm)

“I like to See It Lap the Miles” is another example of a modern riddle poem.

Inspiration

Here’s an example of a list poem by Ray Griffith

Rooms

There are rooms to start up in
Rooms to start out in
Rooms to start over in
Rooms to lie in
Rooms to lie about in
Rooms to lay away in ...

