

Finding Compound and Complex Sentences in Poetry

Directions:

In each poem, highlight the **compound sentences** in yellow and the **complex sentences** in green.

1. Highlight 1 complex sentence:

IF I HAD A BRONTOSAURUS

If I had a brontosaurus,
I would name him Horace or Morris.
But if suddenly one day
he had a lot of little brontosauri,
I would change his name to Laurie.

2. Highlight 2 compound sentences and 2 complex sentences:

THE SILVER FISH

While fishing in the blue lagoon,
I caught a lovely silver fish.
And he spoke to me, "My boy," quoth he
"Please set me free, and I'll grant your wish"

A kingdom of wisdom, a palace of gold
Or all the goodies your fancies can hold"
So I said, "OK," and I threw him free
He swam away, and he laughed at me

Whispering my foolish wish
Into a silent sea
Today I caught that fish again
That lovely silver prince of fishes

Once again he offered me,
If I would only set him free.
Any one of a number of wonderful wishes
He was delicious!

3. Highlight 2 compound sentences and 1 complex sentence:

RAIN

“I opened my eyes,
And looked up at the rain.
It dripped in my head,
And flowed into my brain.
And all that I hear as I lie in my bed
Is the slishity-slosh of the rain in my head.

I step very softly,
I walk very slow,
I can't do a handstand--
I might overflow,
So pardon the wild crazy thing I just said--
I'm just not the same since there's rain in my head.

4. Highlight 1 compound sentence:

IT'S DARK IN HERE

I am writing these poems
From inside a lion,
And it's rather dark in here.
So please excuse the handwriting
Which may not be too clear.
But this afternoon by the lion's cage
I'm afraid I got too near.
And I'm writing these lines
From inside a lion,
And it's rather dark in here.

5. Highlight 3 complex sentences:

ONE INCH TALL

If you were only one inch tall, you'd ride a worm to school.
The teardrop of a crying ant would be your swimming pool.

A crumb of cake would be a feast
And last you seven days at least,
A flea would be a frightening beast
If you were one inch tall.

If you were only one inch tall, you'd walk beneath the door.
It would take about a month to get down to the store.

A bit of fluff would be your bed,
You'd swing upon a spider's thread,
And wear a thimble on your head
If you were one inch tall.

You'd surf across the kitchen sink upon a stick of gum.
You couldn't hug your mama, you'd just have to hug her thumb.

You'd run from people's feet in fright,
To move a pen would take all night,
(This poem took fourteen years to write,
Because I'm just one inch tall).

6. Highlight 3 compound sentences:

MONSTERS I'VE MET

I met a ghost, but he didn't want my head.
He only wanted to know the way to Denver.
I met a devil, but he didn't want my soul.
He only wanted to borrow my bike awhile.
I met a vampire, but he didn't want my blood.
He only wanted two nickels for a dime.
I keep meeting all the right people—
At all the wrong times.