

Summer 2 Week 5

Narrative poems

Lesson 1

Visit this website and open the lesson

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z7bv6g8>

Narrative means story. A **narrative poem** is a poem that tells a story.

Many poems don't have a narrative because they are often just about thoughts and feelings, instead of a story!

Watch the video to learn more about narrative poems.

Features of a narrative poem

- In a narrative poem, a story is told, but rhythm and rhyme are used.
- Rhythm and rhyme give the narrative in the poem energy to make it exciting.
- Some narrative poems also contain repetition to add rhythm and make it more predictable.

Stanzas

Poems are made up of stanzas. A **stanza** is a group of lines within a poem, similar to a paragraph.

Features of a stanza

- Just like a paragraph, they contain related information and introduce new thoughts or ideas.

- Poems can contain a number of stanzas. They are separated by skipping a line.
- Like all poems, stanzas can rhyme, but they do not have to.

Watch this fantastic performance of **Chocolate Cake** by **Michael Rosen** twice.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zp9b4wx>

On your first watch - sit back and enjoy it.

On your second watch - make notes about:

- what you enjoyed
- what you would improve
- examples of repetition
- examples of rhyming
- examples of onomatopoeia


Lesson 2

Take a look at this villainous poem of Humpty Dumpty.

Consider:

Is this a good example of a narrative poem? Why?

Then answer the questions.



Villainous Verses

Humpty Dumpty - The Truth

We all know how the story goes;
that funny old egg
with his wiggly toes;
the way he sat on a very high wall
then came right down
with a great big fall.
You know he fell and smashed his shell;
they fixed him up
with super-strength gel,
but did you know that's not where it ends?
That Humpty's a cheat
and betrayed his friends?
To understand the real egg story,
get yourself ready
cos it gets a bit gory.
For Humpty wasn't an egg at all:
he was a big ol' metal cannonball!
It starts way back in history;
the exact date
remains a mystery.

Let's set the scene in the Civil War -
the Roundheads wanted
a king no more!
They cornered a load of the enemy men,
who scarpered and hid in
a fortified den!
The Cavaliers wanted to keep their king
and were confident
Humpty could do his thing.
The biggest cannon; the biggest ball.
Humpty sat
on the castle wall.
"I will blast them to kingdom come!"
Humpty cried as
they beat their drum.



Villainous Verses

Humpty Dumpty - The Truth



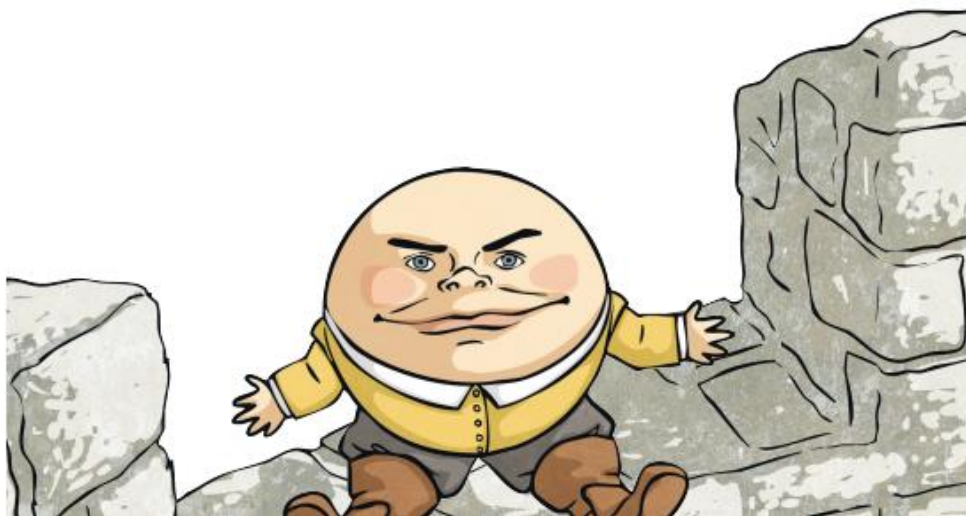
The Cavaliers shouted, the Cavaliers cheered,
surely, they were the
ones to be feared.
But Humpty wasn't keen on the king -
he didn't like
his crown or bling.
Humpty was a Roundhead at heart -
he loved the way they
dressed up smart.
Fighting them was a bad idea
so he waited till
they crept up near.
"Shoot 'em! Blast 'em!" his comrades screamed;
"In a moment,"
the cannonball beamed.
Humpty had no thought of fighting -
in fact, betraying them
was quite exciting.
"Quick! Fire Now!" his friends were crying,
"Yes, in a moment,"
he carried on lying.

But Humpty wasn't a clever ball:
as he sat there smiling
on the wall
from a simple Roundhead's point of view,
smashing him was quite the coup!
They shot their guns and bombs at Humpty
(it was around now he
felt a numpty).
The wall around him began to crumble;
Humpty took a
fatal tumble.
Down he fell and cracked his head;
all around him
his friends were dead.



Villainous Verses Humpty Dumpty - The Truth

He had lied, he had betrayed;
in lots of pieces
now he laid.
All the king's horses, all the king's men
couldn't put Humpty
together again.
That's the truth! That selfish ball!
A rotten egg
falling off the wall.



Questions

1. In the poem, what is Humpty? Tick one.

- ☐ egg
- ☐ soldier
- ☐ cannonball
- ☐ king

2. When is the poem set?

3. Find and copy the lines that show you what Humpty liked about the Roundheads.

4. 'who scarpered and hid in a fortified den!' What does this tell you about the Cavaliers?

5. Why do you think the Cavaliers were confident in Humpty? Use the text and give at least two reasons in your answers.

6. Match the numbers to these events in the poem, so that they are in time order. Number 1 is the first event that happened.

Humpty fell off the castle wall.

1

The Roundheads cornered the Cavaliers.

2

The king's men and horses tried to fix Humpty.

3

Humpty felt a numpty.

4

7. What does Humpty do that isn't very clever? Explain **why** it isn't very clever.

8. According to this poem, how is Humpty fixed in the **original** poem?



Lesson 3

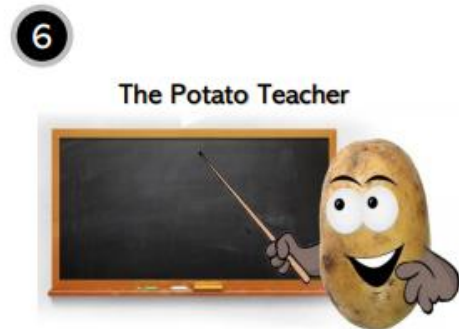
Now it's your turn to write a narrative poem. You could use one of the ideas from here, you could use a nursery rhyme or you could use your own idea.

NARRATIVE POEMS



Struggling for ideas for your poem?

- Roll a dice to select one of the ideas below
- REMEMBER! Making mistakes, editing and redrafting are all part of the writing process



Points to remember

- A narrative poem tells a story, but it has rhythm, rhyme and repetition - just like a poem.
- It's ok to make mistakes! Experimenting with words, editing and redrafting are all part of the writing process!

- Separate each new idea within your poem by using stanzas.

Once you have written your fantastic narrative poem, try performing it to a member of your family. Maybe you could ask them to video you. You could also publish your finished poem and add illustrations.

For tips on how to perform poems in an interesting or exciting way revisit the website from Lesson 1 and watch the video in Activity 3.

We would love to see your videos and published poems.

Answers

1. In the poem, what is Humpty? Tick one.

- ☐ egg
☐ soldier
☒ **cannonball**
☐ king

2. When is the poem set?

The poem is set during the Civil War.

3. Find and copy the lines that show you what Humpty liked about the Roundheads.

'he loved the way they dressed up smart.'

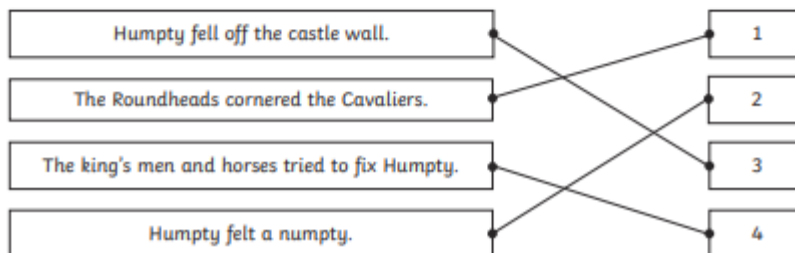
4. 'who scarpered and hid in a fortified den!' What does this tell you about the Cavaliers?

It tells you they were frightened of the enemy (the Roundheads) and felt safer running away and hiding in a castle.

5. Why do you think the Cavaliers were confident in Humpty? Use the text and give at least two reasons in your answers.

Accept any two from: It says that Humpty was 'a big ol' metal cannonball', which suggests he was a powerful weapon; It also says, 'The biggest cannon; the biggest ball', again suggesting Humpty was powerful; They were protected by the castle; Humpty says, "I will blast them to kingdom come!" showing confidence that will have given confidence to the Cavaliers/his friends, which is why they cheered and thought they should be feared.

6. Match the numbers to these events in the poem, so that they are in time order. Number 1 is the first event that happened.



Wittolous verses | Humpty Dumpty - the main

7. What does Humpty do that isn't very clever? Explain **why** it isn't very clever.

Humpty doesn't tell the Roundheads he wants to be on their side. It isn't very clever because without knowing this, the Roundheads fire their guns and bombs at him and make Humpty fall off the castle wall.

8. According to this poem, how is Humpty fixed in the **original** poem?

Humpty is fixed with super-strength gel.