

# Rocky Mountain Classical Christian Schools

## Speech Meet Official Selections

### First Grade

<b>First Grade: Poetry</b>	<b>4</b>
Animal Crackers	4
The Animal Store	5
Animals to Love	6
Animals, Too	7
April Rain Song	8
At The Zoo	9
A Bed in the Leaves	10
A Bird	11
Be Even Tempered	12
Bed in Summer	13
Block City	14
Boats	15
The Cat	16
Catch a Little Rhyme	17
Catherine	18
A Chant of Darkness	19
A Child's Prayer	20
Chocolate Cake	21
Christ in the Camp	22
Chums	23
Come, Little Leaves	24
Counting-Out Rhyme	25
The Cow	26
The Creation	27
Crocus	28
The Dark	29
Doll's Song	30
Don't Ever Cross a Crocodile	31
The Egg	32
Eletelephony	33
Enjoy Work	34
The Friendly Beasts	35
Forgive Others	36

Funny the Way Different Cars Start	37
Furry Bear	38
The Giggling Gagging Gaggle of Geese	39
Goodnight Moon	40
Grandfather Frog	41
Grown Up	42
Hiding	43
I Keep Three Wishes Ready	44
The Ice Cream Man	45
If I Were a Pilgrim Child	46
In Harmony with Nature	47
In The Garden	48
The Invisible Playmate	49
The Jolly Woodchuck	50
The Lamplighter	51
The Land of Counterpane	52
The Land of Story Books	53
Leisure	54
A Little Bird I Am	55
The Lamb	56
Little Snail	57
Little Talk	58
Little Turtle	59
The Little Whistler	60
The Lost Doll	61
Louder Than a Clap of Thunder	62
Marching Song	63
Mothers Always Know	64
The Mountain and the Squirrel	65
Mrs. Peck-Pigeon	66
My Books and I	67
My Dog	68
My Favorite Word	69
My Visitors	70
The North Wind Doth Blow	71
Neighborly	72
October	73
Old Glory	74
On Eating Porridge Made of Peas	75
Opossum	76
Out in the Fields with God	77

The Owl	78
A Pop Corn Song	79
Rain in Summer	80
The Rain Song	81
Recipe	82
The Secrets of Our Garden	83
The Seed Shop	84
The Skylark	85
A Sledding Song	86
A Smile	87
The Snail	88
The Snowbird	89
Someone	90
Something Told the Wild Geese	91
Song of the Train	92
Spaghetti	93
Spread God's Word	94
Spring	95
Spring Morning	96
Spring Prayer	97
The Squirrel	98
The Steam Shovel	99
Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening	100
The Swing	101
Taking Turns	102
Thank God for Little Things	103
Thanks, Dear Jesus	104
The Three Little Kittens	105
Traffic	106
Trees	107
Try, Try Again	108
Tummyache	109
Walking	110
Washing	111
We Thank Thee	112
What Does the Little Birdie Say	113
What is Blue?	114
What Is Pink?	115
When Mother Reads Aloud	116
Where Go the Boats?	117
Who Knows a Mountain?	118

Wind on the Hill	119
Wind Song	120
Windy Nights	121
The Worm	122
<b>First Grade: Bible Memory</b>	<b>123</b>
2 Corinthians 5:17-21	124
Isaiah 43:10-13	125
Luke 2:1-7	126
John 14:1-6	127
Psalms 27:1-3	128
Proverbs 3:5-8	129
Romans 5:1-5	130
Colossians 2:6-10	131
Isaiah 6:1-8	132
Psalms 63:1-11	133
Psalms 139:1-14	134
2 Samuel 22:31-37	135
from Jesus Storybook Bible	136

# First Grade: Poetry

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## Animal Crackers

*Christopher Morley*

Animal crackers, and cocoa to drink,  
That is the finest of suppers, I think;  
When I'm grown up and can have what I please  
I think I shall always insist upon these.

What do you choose when you're offered a treat?  
When Mother says, "What would you like best to eat?"  
Is it waffles and syrup, or cinnamon toast?  
It's cocoa and animal crackers that I love most!

The kitchen's the coziest place that I know:  
The kettle is singing, the stove is aglow,  
And there in the twilight, how jolly to see  
The cocoa and animals waiting for me.

Daddy and Mother dine later in state,  
With Mary to cook for them, Susan to wait;  
But they don't have nearly as much fun as I  
Who eat in the kitchen with Nurse standing by;  
And Daddy once said, he would like to be me  
Having cocoa and animals once more for tea!

## The Animal Store

*Rachel Field*

If I had a hundred dollars to spend,  
Or maybe a little more,  
I'd hurry as fast as my legs would go  
Straight to the animal store.  
I wouldn't say, "How much for this or that?"  
"What kind of dog is he?"  
I'd buy as many as rolled an eye,  
Or wagged a tail at me!  
I'd take the hound with the drooping ears  
That sits by himself alone;  
Cockers and Cairns and wobbly pups  
For to be my very own.  
I might buy a parrot all red and green,  
And the monkey I saw before.  
If I had a hundred dollars to spend,  
Or maybe a little more.

## Animals to Love

*by Eunice D. Breilid*

Animals to Love

Animals furry.

Animals fuzzy.

Cats that are purry,

Bees that are buzzy.

Animals slim,

Animals slippery.

Birds that are trim.

Fish that are flippery.

Animals humpy.

Animals cuddly

Camels so bumpy

Ducks that are puddly.

Some are the pets

To come when I call.

Others are just

To love and that's all!

## Animals, Too

*Margaret E. Singleton*

Animals have feelings, too;  
They need love, just as people do.  
Animals have only cries  
And wagging tails and hopeful eyes  
To say they're hungry, hurt, or scared,  
Or how they wish that someone cared.  
Helping animals sick or sad  
Makes you and me feel strong and glad.

## April Rain Song

*Langston Hughes*

Let the rain kiss you.

Let the rain beat upon your head with silver liquid drops.

Let the rain sing you a lullaby.

The rain makes still pools on the sidewalk.

The rain makes running pools in the gutter.

The rain plays a little sleep-song on our roof at night.

And I love the rain.

## At The Zoo

*A.A. Milne*

There are lions and roaring tigers,  
and enormous camels and things,  
There are biffalo-buffalo-bisons,  
and a great big bear with wings.  
There's a sort of a tiny potamus,  
and a tiny nosserus too -  
But I gave buns to the elephant  
when I went down to the Zoo!

There are badgers and bidgers and bodgers,  
and a Super-in-tendent's House,  
There are masses of goats, and a Polar,  
and different kinds of mouse,  
And I think there's a sort of a something  
which is called a wallaboo -  
But I gave buns to the elephant  
when I went down to the Zoo!

If you try to talk to the bison,  
he never quite understands;  
You can't shake hands with a mingo -  
he doesn't like shaking hands.  
And lions and roaring tigers  
hate saying, "How do you do?" -  
But I give buns to the elephant  
when I go down to the Zoo!

## A Bed in the Leaves

*Marian Kennedy*

My yard is full of leaves today,  
Brown and yellow and red.  
I think I'll rake them in a pile  
Higher than my head.  
Then I'll pretend it is my bed.  
I'll jump in very quick,  
And pile the leaves up over me  
For covers soft and thick.  
I'll just lie there so nice and warm  
And look up at the sky,  
And watch more leaves float down for me.  
To rake up by and by.

## A Bird

*Emily Dickinson*

A bird came down the walk,  
He did not know I saw;  
He bit an angleworm in halves  
And ate the fellow, raw.  
And then he drank a dew  
From a convenient grass,  
And then hopped sidewise to the wall  
To let a beetle pass.

## Be Even Tempered

*Alice Joyce Davidson*

Before you lose your temper  
Take a breath and count to ten,  
And silently ask God to help you  
Gain control again...  
And have a pardon handy  
For the errors others make,  
Offer love and understanding,  
And banish hate and ache ...  
Be even tempered always,  
Be loving and forgiving,  
And you will be rewarded  
With peace and joyful living!

## Bed in Summer

*Robert Louis Stevenson*

In winter I get up at night  
And dress by yellow candle-light.  
In summer quite the other way,  
I have to go to bed by day.  
I have to go to bed and see  
The birds still hopping on the tree,  
Or hear the grown-up people's feet  
Still going past me in the street.  
And does it not seem hard to you,  
When all the sky is clear and blue,  
And I should like so much to play,  
To have to go to bed by day?

## Block City

*Robert Louis Stevenson*

What are you able to build with your blocks?  
Castles and palaces, temples and docks.  
Rain may keep raining, and others go roam,  
But I can be happy and building at home.

Let the sofa be mountains, the carpet be sea,  
There I'll establish a city for me:  
A kirk and a mill and a palace beside,  
And a harbor as well where my vessels may ride.

Great is the palace with pillar and wall,  
A sort of a tower on the top of it all,  
And steps coming down in an orderly way  
To where my toy vessels lie safe in the bay.

This one is sailing and that one is moored:  
Hark to the song of the sailors on board!  
And see on the steps of my palace, the kings  
Coming and going with presents and things!

## Boats

*Rowan Bastin Bennett*

The steamboat is a slowpoke,  
You simply cannot rush him.  
The sailboat will not move at all  
Without a wind to push him;  
But the speedboat, with his sharp red nose,  
Is quite a different kind;  
He tosses high the spray and leaves  
The other boats behind.

## The Cat

*Ogden Nash*

You get a wife, you get a house,  
Eventually you get a mouse.  
You get some words regarding mice,  
You get a kitty in a trice.

By two a.m. or thereabouts,  
The mouse is in, the cat is out.  
It dawns upon you, in your cot,  
The mouse is silent, the cat is not.

Instead of kitty, says your spouse,  
You should have got another mouse.

## Catch a Little Rhyme

*Eve Merriam*

Once upon a time  
I caught a little rhyme.  
I set it on the floor  
but it ran right out the door.  
I chased it on my bicycle  
but it melted to an icicle.  
I scooped it up in my hat  
but it turned into a cat.  
I caught it by the tail  
but it stretched into a whale.  
I followed it in a boat  
but it changed into a goat.  
When I fed it tin and paper  
it became a tall skyscraper.  
Then it grew into a kite  
and flew far out of sight.

## Catherine

*Karla Kuskin*

Catherine said, "I think I'll bake  
A most delicious chocolate cake."  
She took some mud and mixed it up  
While adding water from a cup  
And then some weeds and nuts and bark  
And special gravel from the park  
A thistle and a dash of sand.  
She beat out all the lumps by hand.  
And on the top she wrote "To You"  
The way she says the bakers do  
And then she signed it "Fondly C."  
And gave the whole of it to me.  
I thanked her but I wouldn't dream  
Of eating cake without ice cream.

## A Chant of Darkness

*Helen Keller*

Once in regions void of light I wandered;  
In blank darkness I stumbled,  
And fear led me by the hand;  
My feet pressed earthward,  
Afraid of pitfalls.  
By many shapeless terrors of the night affrighted,  
To the wakeful day  
I held out beseeching arms.

Then came Love, bearing in her hand  
The torch that is the light unto my feet,  
And softly spoke Love: "Hast thou  
Entered into the treasures of darkness?  
Hast thou entered into the treasures of the night?  
Search out thy blindness. It holdeth  
Riches past computing.

## A Child's Prayer

*M. Bentham Edwards*

God make my life a little light,  
Within the world to glow—  
A tiny flame that burneth bright,  
Wherever I may go.

God make my life a little flower,  
That bringeth joy to all,  
Content to bloom in native bower,  
Although its place be small.

God make my life a little song,  
That comforteth the sad,  
That helpeth others to be strong,  
And makes the singer glad.

## Chocolate Cake

*Jack Prelutsky*

I am lying in the darkness  
with a smile upon my face,  
as I'm thinking of my stomach,  
which has got an empty space,  
and that corner of the kitchen  
with the piece of chocolate cake  
I have got to get my hands on  
for my empty stomach's sake.

When my parents both are sleeping  
(I can tell by Father's snore),  
I will sneak out of my bedroom,  
I will tiptoe past their door,  
I will slip into the kitchen  
without any noise or light,  
and if I'm really careful,  
I will have that cake tonight.

## Christ in the Camp

*J. William Jones*

“As we were about to leave his tent,  
Mr. Lacy said: ‘I think it right that I should say to you, general,  
that the chaplains of this army have a deep interest in your welfare,  
and that some of the most fervent prayers we offer are in your behalf.’  
The old hero’s face flushed, tears started in his eyes,  
and he replied, with choked utterance and deep emotion:  
‘Please thank them for that, sir — I warmly appreciate it.  
And I can only say that I am nothing but a poor sinner,  
trusting in Christ alone for salvation,  
and need all of the prayers they can offer for me.’”

## Chums

*Arthur Guiterman*

He sits and begs, he gives a paw,  
He is, as you can see,  
The finest dog you ever saw,  
And he belongs to me.  
He follows everywhere I go  
And even when I swim.  
I laugh because he thinks, you know,  
That I belong to him.  
But still no matter what we do  
We never have a fuss;  
And so I guess it must be true  
That we belong to us.

## Come, Little Leaves

*George Cooper*

“Come, little leaves,” said the wind one day,  
“Come o’er the meadows with me and play;  
Put on your dresses of red and gold,  
For summer is gone and the days grow cold.”

Soon as the leaves heard the wind’s loud call,  
Down they came fluttering, one and all;  
Over the brown fields they danced and flew,  
Singing the glad little songs they knew.

“Cricket, good-by, we’ve been friends so long,  
Little brook, sing us your farewell song;  
Say you are sorry to see us go;  
Ah, you will miss us, right well we know.

“Dear little lambs in your fleecy fold,  
Mother will keep you from harm and cold;  
Fondly we watched you in vale and glade,  
Say, will you dream of our loving shade?”

Dancing and whirling, the little leaves went,  
Winter had called them, and they were content;  
Soon, fast asleep in their earthy beds,  
The snow laid a coverlid over their heads.

## Counting-Out Rhyme

*Edna St. Vincent Millay*

Silver bark of beech, and willow  
Bark of yellow birch and yellow  
Twig of willow.

Stripe of green in moosewood maple,  
Colour seen in leaf of apple,  
Bark of popple.

Wood of popple pale as moonbeam,  
Wood of oak for yoke and barn-beam,  
Wood of hornbeam.

Silver bark of beech, and hollow  
Stem of elder, tall and yellow  
Twig of willow.

## The Cow

*Albert B. Southwick*

The cow stands in the big green field,  
She stands there all the day.  
I wonder what she thinks about  
While chewing on the hay?  
Perhaps about the ice-cream cone?  
Perhaps about a ball?  
I wonder what she thinks about,  
Or if she thinks at all!  
I guess I'll never know, because  
The cow can't talk, you see.  
And if she can, she never, never,  
Never talks to me!

## The Creation

*Cecil Frances Alexander*

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures, great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colors,  
He made their tiny wings.

The rich man in his castle,  
The poor man at his gate,  
God made them, high or lowly,  
And ordered their estate.

The purple-headed mountain,  
The river running by,  
The sunset and the morning,  
That brightens up the sky;

The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruits in the garden —  
He made them every one.

The tall trees in the greenwood,  
The meadows where we play,  
The rushes by the water  
We gather every day —

He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well!

## Crocus

*Sarah J. Day*

The crocus had slept in his little round house  
So soundly the whole winter through;  
There came a tap-tapping,  
'Twas Spring at the door:  
“Up! Up! We are waiting for you!”  
The crocus peeped out from his little brown house  
And nodded his gay little head;  
“Good morning, Miss Snowdrop  
And how do you do  
This fine, chilly morning?” he said.

## The Dark

*Ethel Jacobson*

The dark is warm  
As the touch of fur.  
The dark is soft  
As a kitten's purr.  
It wraps me snug  
In velvet wings  
With comfortable  
Murmurings.  
The dark says, "Sleep,  
My small one, rest  
Like a baby wren  
In its tree-house nest."  
It watches me  
With loving looks  
And brings me dreams  
Like storybooks.

## Doll's Song

*Lewis Carroll*

Matilda Jane, you never look  
At any toy or picture book;  
I show you pretty things in vain—  
You must be blind, Matilda Jane.  
I ask you riddles, tell you tales,  
But all our conversation fails;  
You never answer me again—  
I fear you're dumb, Matilda Jane!  
Matilda, darling, when I call,  
You never seem to hear at all;  
I shout with all my might and main  
But you're so deaf, Matilda Jane!  
Matilda Jane, you needn't mind:  
For though you're deaf and dumb and blind,  
There's some one loves you, it is plain—  
And that is me, Matilda Jane!

## Don't Ever Cross a Crocodile

*Kaye Starbird*

Don't ever cross a crocodile,  
However few his faults.  
Don't ever dare  
A dancing bear  
To teach you how to waltz.  
Don't ever poke a rattlesnake  
Who's sleeping in the sun  
And say the poke  
Was just a joke  
And really all in fun.  
Don't ever lure a lion close  
With gifts of steak and suet.  
Though lion-looks  
Are nice in books  
Don't ever, ever do it.

## The Egg

*Jack Prelutsky*

If you listen very carefully,  
you'll hear the chicken hatching.  
At first there scarcely was a sound,  
but now a steady scratching;  
and now the egg begins to crack,  
the scratching starts to quicken,  
as anxiously we all await the exit of the chicken.

And now a head emerges from the darkness of the egg,  
and now a bit of fluff appears,  
and now a tiny leg,  
and now the chicken's out at last,  
he's shaking himself loose.  
But, wait a minute, that's no chicken ...  
goodness, it's a goose.

## Eletelephony

*Laura E. 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.)

## Enjoy Work

*Alice Joyce Davidson*

A mother rocks a cradle  
With a smile on her face ...  
An astronaut hums softly  
As he charts his way in space ...  
A surgeon heaves a thankful sigh  
Another life is saved ...  
A construction worker chuckles  
As he drives on roads he paved ...  
God gives a special task to do  
To each and every one  
And blesses us with special joy  
Each time a job's well done!

## The Friendly Beasts

*An old carol from France*

Jesus our brother, kind and good,  
Was humbly born in a stable rude;  
The friendly beasts around Him stood,  
Jesus our brother, kind and good.

“I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown,  
“I carried His Mother up hill and down;  
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town,  
I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

“I,” said the cow, all white and red,  
“I gave Him my manger for His bed;  
I gave Him my hay to pillow His head.  
I,” said the cow, all white and red.

“I,” said the sheep with the curly horn,  
“I gave Him my wool for a blanket warm.  
He wore my coat on Christmas morn.  
I,” said the sheep with the curly horn.

“I,” said the dove from the rafters high,  
“I cooed Him to sleep so He would not cry,  
I cooed Him to sleep, my mate and I.  
I,” said the dove from the rafters high.

And every beast, by some good spell,  
In the stable dark was glad to tell,  
Of the gift he gave Immanuel,  
The gift he gave Immanuel.

## Forgive Others

*Alice Joyce Davidson*

God gave a tough assignment  
For all of us to do—  
To pray for all those who hurt us,  
And to love our enemies, too ...  
So, when other people wrong you,  
Instead of striking back,  
Say a little prayer for them  
For qualities they lack ...  
Ask the Lord to give them  
An extra portion of  
Insight and compassion—  
And to bless them with His love.

## Funny the Way Different Cars Start

*Dorothy Baruch*

Funny the way  
Different cars start.  
Some with a chunk and jerk,  
Some with a cough and a puff of smoke  
Out of the back,

Some with only a little click—with  
hardly any noise.

Funny the way  
Different cars run.  
Some rattle and bang,  
Some whirrr,  
Some knock and knock.  
Some purr  
And hummm  
Smoothly on with hardly any noise.

## Furry Bear

*A. A. Milne*

If I were a bear,  
    And a big bear too,  
I shouldn't much care  
    If it froze or sned;  
I shouldn't much mind  
    If it snowed or friz—  
I'd be all fur-lined  
    With a coat like his!  
For I'd have fur boots and a brown fur wrap,  
And brown fur knickers and a big fur cap.  
I'd have a fur muffle-ruff to cover my jaws,  
And brown fur mittens on my big brown paws.  
With a big brown furry-down up to my head,  
I'd sleep all the winter in a big fur bed.

# The Giggling Gaggling Gaggle of Geese

*Jack Prelutsky*

The giggling gaggling gaggle of geese,  
they keep all the cows and the chickens awake,  
they giggle all night giving nobody peace.  
The giggling gaggling gaggle of geese.

The giggling gaggling gaggle of geese,  
they chased all the ducks and the swans from the lake.  
Oh, when will the pranks and the noise ever cease  
of the giggling gaggling gaggle of geese!

The giggling gaggling gaggle of geese,  
it seems there's no end to the mischief they make,  
now they have stolen the sheep's woolen fleece.  
The giggling gaggling gaggle of geese.

The giggling gaggling gaggle of geese,  
they ate all the cake that the farmer's wife baked.  
The mischievous geese are now smug and obese.  
The giggling gaggling gaggle of geese.

The giggling gaggling gaggle of geese,  
eating that cake was a dreadful mistake.  
For when holiday comes they will make a fine feast.  
The giggling gaggling gaggle of geese.

## Goodnight Moon

*Margaret Wise Brown*

In the great green room there was a telephone and a red balloon  
and a picture of the cow jumping over the moon  
And there were three little bears sitting on chairs  
and two little kittens and a pair of mittens  
And a little toy house, and a young mouse  
and a comb and a brush, and a bowl full of mush  
And a quiet old lady who was whispering, "Hush"

Goodnight room, goodnight moon.  
Goodnight cow jumping over the moon.  
Goodnight light and the red balloon  
Goodnight bears and goodnight chairs  
Goodnight kittens and goodnight mittens  
Goodnight clocks and goodnight socks  
Goodnight house and goodnight mouse  
Goodnight comb and goodnight brush  
Goodnight nobody, goodnight mush.  
And goodnight to the old lady whispering, "Hush"  
Goodnight stars, goodnight air.  
Goodnight noises everywhere.

## Grandfather Frog

*Louise Seaman Bechtal*

Fat green frog sits by the pond,  
Big frog, bull frog, grandfather frog.  
Croak—croak—croak  
Shuts his eye, opens his eye,  
Rolls his eye, winks his eye  
Waiting for  
A little fat fly.  
Croak, croak.  
I go walking down by the pond,  
I want to see the big green frog.  
I want to stare right into his eye.  
Rolling, winking, funny old eye.  
But oh! he hears me coming by.  
Croak—croak—  
SPLASH!

## Grown Up

*Dorothy Aldis*

I'm growing up, my mother says—  
Today she said I'd grown;  
The reason why is this: Now I  
Can do things all alone.  
And though I'm glad that I don't need  
Someone to brush my hair  
And wash my hands and face and button  
Buttons everywhere.  
Although I'm very glad indeed  
To help myself instead,  
I hope that I won't have to try  
To tuck myself in bed.

## Hiding

*Dorothy Aldis*

I'm hiding, I'm hiding,  
And no one knows where;  
For all they can see is my  
Toes and my hair.

And I just heard my father  
Say to my mother —  
“But, darling, he must be  
Somewhere or other;

“Have you looked in the inkwell?”  
And Mother said, “Where?”  
“In the inkwell,” said Father. But  
I was not there.

Then “Wait!” cried my mother —  
“I think that I see  
Him under the carpet.” But

It was not me.

“Inside the mirror’s  
A pretty good place,”  
Said Father and looked, but saw  
Only his face.

“We’ve hunted,” sighed Mother,  
“As hard as we could  
And I am so afraid that we’ve  
Lost him for good.”

Then I laughed out aloud  
And I wiggled my toes  
And Father said — “Look, dear,  
I wonder if those

“Toes could be Benny’s?  
There are ten of them, see?”  
And they were so surprised to find

## I Keep Three Wishes Ready

*Annette Wynne*

I keep three wishes ready,  
Lest I should chance to meet,  
Any day a fairy  
Coming down the street.  
I'd hate to have to stammer,  
Or have to think them out,  
For it's very hard to think things up  
When a fairy is about.  
And I'd hate to lose my wishes,  
For fairies fly away,  
And perhaps I'd never have a chance  
On any other day.  
So I keep three wishes ready,  
Lest I should chance to meet,  
Any day a fairy  
Coming down the street.

## The Ice Cream Man

*Rachel Field*

When summer's in the city,  
And bricks a blaze of heat,  
The Ice-Cream Man with his little cart  
Goes trundling down the street.  
Beneath his round umbrella,  
Oh, what a joyful sight,  
To see him fill the cones with mounds  
Of cooling brown or white:  
Vanilla, chocolate, strawberry,  
Or chilly things to drink  
From bottles full of frosty-fizz,  
Green, orange, white, or pink.  
His cart might be a flower bed  
Of roses and sweet peas,  
The way the children cluster round  
As thick as honeybees.

## If I Were a Pilgrim Child

*Rowena Bennett*

If I were a Pilgrim child,  
Dressed in white or gray,  
I should catch my turkey wild  
For Thanksgiving Day.  
I should pick my cranberries  
Fresh from out a bog,  
And make a table of a stump  
And sit upon a log.  
An Indian would be my guest  
And wear a crimson feather,  
And we should clasp our hands and say  
Thanksgiving grace together.  
But I was born in modern times  
And shall not have this joy.  
My cranberries will be delivered  
By the grocery boy.  
My turkey will be served upon  
A shining silver platter.  
It will not taste as wild game tastes  
Though it will be much fatter;  
And, oh, of all the guests that come  
Not one of them will wear  
Moccasins upon his feet  
Or feathers in his hair!

## In Harmony with Nature

*Alice Joyce Davidson*

There are wonders all around us  
To see, to touch, to hear—  
God's handiwork surrounds us  
And reminds us He is near ...  
So every time you smell a flower,  
Or see a starlit sky,  
Or hear a cricket chirping,  
Or feel a breeze blow by,  
Or witness all the splendor  
A changing season brings,  
You've touched the hand of God above—  
The Creator of all things.

## In The Garden

*Emily Dickinson*

A bird came down the walk:  
He did not know I saw;  
He bit an angle-worm in halves  
And ate the fellow, raw.

And then he drank a dew  
From a convenient grass,  
And then hopped sidewise to the wall  
To let a beetle pass.

He glanced with rapid eyes  
That hurried all abroad, --  
They looked like frightened beads, I thought;  
He stirred his velvet head

Like one in danger; cautious,  
I offered him a crumb,  
And he unrolled his feathers  
And rowed him softer home

Than oars divide the ocean,  
Too silver for a seam,  
Or butterflies, off banks of noon,  
Leap, splashless, as they swim.

## The Invisible Playmate

*Margaret Widdemer*

When the other children go,  
    Though there's no one seems to see  
And there's no one seems to know,  
    Fanny comes and plays with me.

She has yellow curly hair  
    And her dress is always blue,  
And she always plays quite fair  
    Everything I tell her to.

People say she isn't there —  
    They step over her at play  
And they sit down in her chair  
    In the very rudest way.

It is queer they cannot know  
    When she's there for me to see!  
When the other children go  
    Fanny comes and plays with me.

## The Jolly Woodchuck

*Marion Edey and Dorothy Grider*

The woodchuck's very very fat  
But doesn't care a pin for that.

When nights are long and the snow is deep.  
Down in his hole he lies asleep.

Under the earth is a warm little room  
The drowsy woodchuck calls his home.

Rolls of fat and fur surround him,  
With all his children curled around him,

Snout to snout and tail to tail.  
He never awakes in the wildest gale;

When icicles snap and the north wind blows  
He snores in his sleep and rubs his nose.

## The Lamplighter

Robert Louis Stevenson

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 the 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 oh! before you hurry by with ladder and  
    with light,  
O Leerie, see a little child and nod to him tonight!

## The Land of Counterpane

*Robert Louis Stevenson*

When I was sick and lay a-bed,  
I had two pillows at my head,  
And all my toys beside me lay  
To keep me happy all the day.

And sometimes for an hour or so  
I watched my leaden soldiers go,  
With different uniforms and drills,  
Among the bed-clothes, through the hills;

And sometimes sent my ships in fleets  
All up and down among the sheets;  
Or brought my trees and houses out,  
And planted cities all about.

I was the giant great and still  
That sits upon the pillow-hill,  
And sees before him, dale and plain,  
The pleasant land of counterpane.

## The Land of Story Books

*Robert Louis Stevenson*

At evening when the lamp is lit,  
Around the fire my parents sit;  
They sit at home and talk and sing,  
And do not play at anything.

Now, with my little gun, I crawl  
All in the dark along the wall,  
And follow round the forest track  
Away behind the sofa back.  
There, in the night, where none can spy,  
All in my hunter's camp I lie,  
And play at books that I have read  
Till it is time to go to bed.

These are the hills, these are the woods,  
These are my starry solitudes;  
And there the river by whose brink  
The roaring lions come to drink.

I see the others far away  
As if in firelit camp they lay,  
And I, like to an Indian scout,  
Around their party prowled about.

So, when my nurse comes in for me,  
Home I return across the sea,  
And go to bed with backward looks  
At my dear Land of Story Books.

## Leisure

*William Henry Davies*

What is this life if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.

No time to stand beneath the boughs  
And stare as long as sheep or cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass,  
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight,  
Streams full of stars, like stars at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,  
And watch her feet, how they can dance.

No time to wait till her mouth can  
Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.

## A Little Bird I Am

*Louisa May Alcott*

'A little bird I am,  
Shut from the fields of air,  
And in my cage I sit and sing  
To Him who placed me there:  
Well pleased a prisoner to be,  
Because, my God, it pleases Thee!

'Naught have I else to do;  
I sing the whole day long;  
And He whom most I love to please  
Doth listen to my song,  
He caught and bound my wandering wing,  
But still He bends to hear me sing.'

## The Lamb

*William Blake*

Little Lamb who made thee  
Dost thou know who made thee  
Gave thee life and bid thee feed.  
By the stream and o'er the mead;  
Gave thee clothing of delight,  
Softest clothing wooly bright;  
Gave thee such a tender voice,  
Making all the vales rejoice!

Little Lamb who made thee  
Dost thou know who made thee

Little Lamb I'll tell thee,  
Little Lamb I'll tell thee!  
He is called by thy name,  
For he calls himself a Lamb:  
He is meek and he is mild,  
He became a little child:  
I a child and thou a lamb,  
We are called by his name.

Little Lamb God bless thee.  
Little Lamb God bless thee.

## Little Snail

*Hilda Conkling*

I saw a little snail  
Come down the garden walk,  
He wagged his head this way ...  
that way ...  
Like a clown in a circus.  
He looked from side to side  
As though he were from a different  
country,  
I have always said he carries his house  
on his back ...  
Today in the rain  
I saw that it was his umbrella.

## Little Talk

*Aileen Fisher*

Don't you think it's probable  
that beetles, bugs and bees  
talk about a lot of things—  
you know, such things as these:

The kind of weather where they live  
in jungles tall with grass  
and earthquakes in their villages  
whenever people pass!

Of course, we'll never know if bugs  
talk very much at all,  
because our ears are far too big  
for talk that is so small.

## Little Turtle

*Nicholas Vachel Lindsay*

There was a little turtle.  
He lived in a box.  
He swam in a puddle.  
He climbed on the rocks.

He snapped at a mosquito.  
He snapped at a flea.  
He snapped at a minnow.  
And he snapped at me.

He caught the mosquito.  
He caught the flea.  
He caught the minnow.  
But he didn't catch me.

## The Little Whistler

*Frances Frost*

My mother whistled softly,  
My father whistled bravely,  
My brother whistled merrily,  
And I tried all day long!  
I blew my breath inwards,  
I blew my breath outwards,  
But all you heard was breath blowing  
And not a bit of song!

But today I heard a bluebird,  
A happy, young and new bird,  
Whistling in the apple tree,  
He'd just discovered how!  
Then quick I blew my breath in,  
And happy I blew my breath out,  
And sudden I blew three wild notes—  
And I can whistle now!

## The Lost Doll

*Charles Kinglsey*

I once had a sweet little doll, dears,  
The prettiest doll in the world;  
Her cheeks were so red and so white, dears,  
And her hair was so charmingly curled;  
But I lost my poor little doll, dears,  
As I played on the heath one day,  
And I cried for her more than a week, dears,  
But I never could find where she lay.

I found my poor little doll, dears,  
As I played on the heath one day;  
Folks say she is terribly changed, dears,  
And her paint is all washed away,  
And her arm trodden off by the cows, dears,  
And her hair not the least bit curled;  
Yet for old time's sake, she is still, dears,  
The prettiest doll in the world.

# Louder Than a Clap of Thunder

*Jack Prelutsky*

Louder than a clap of thunder,

louder than an eagle screams,

louder than a dragon blunders,

or a dozen football teams,

louder than a four alarmer,

or a rushing waterfall,

louder than a knight in armor

jumping from a ten-foot wall.

Louder than an earthquake rumbles,

louder than a tidal wave,

louder than an ogre grumbles

as he stumbles through his cave,

louder than stampeding cattle,

louder than a cannon roars,

louder than a giant's rattle,

that's how loud my father SNORES!

## Marching Song

*Robert Louis Stevenson*

Bring the comb and play upon it!  
Marching, here we come!

Willie cocks his highland bonnet,  
Johnnie beats the drum.

Mary Jane commands the party,  
Peter leads the rear;

Feet in time, alert and hearty,  
Each a Grenadier!

All in the most martial manner  
Marching double-quick;

While the napkin like the banner  
Waves upon the stick!

Here's enough of fame and pillage,  
Great commander Jane!

Now that we've been round the village,  
Let's go home again.

## Mothers Always Know

*Jocinna C. Miller*

The thing that really puzzles me  
Is how much Mothers know.  
Mine seems to know ahead of time  
When it will rain or blow.

She knows just what will fix a bump  
On elbow, shin, or knee,  
And scratches that I get sometimes  
When falling from a tree.

But this is one time she'll be fooled.  
It's nearly Mother's Day  
And still she doesn't know I have  
Her present hid away.

## The Mountain and the Squirrel

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

The mountain and the squirrel  
Had a quarrel  
And the former called the latter "Little prig"  
But replied,  
"You are doubtless very big;  
But all sorts of things and weather  
Must be taken in together  
To make up a year,  
And a sphere.  
And I think it no disgrace  
To occupy my place.  
If I'm not so large as you,  
You are not so small as I,  
And not half as sly.  
I'll not deny you make  
A very pretty squirrel track.  
Talents differ; all is well and wisely put,  
If I cannot carry forests on my back,  
Neither can you crack a nut."

Mrs. Peck-Pigeon

*Eleanor Farjeon*

Mrs. Peck-Pigeon

Is picking for bread

Bob-bob-bob

Goes her little round head.

Tame as a pussy-cat

In the street,

Step-step-step

Go her little red feet.

With her little red feet

And her little round head,

Mrs. Peck-Pigeon

Goes picking for bread.

## My Books and I

*Florence Piper Tuttle*

My books and I the whole day through  
Find many, many things to do;  
We travel anywhere we please.  
On dragonflies and bumblebees.

We visit pirates in their den;  
We sail the seas and back again.  
With Indians, lying all around,  
We spread our blankets on the ground.

At night, the fairies on the green  
Ask me to be their Fairy Queen  
The most exciting time of day  
Is when my books and I just play.

## My Dog

*Marchette Chute*

His nose is short and scrubby;  
His ears hang rather low;

And he always brings the stick back,  
No matter how far you throw.

He gets spanked rather often  
For things he shouldn't do,

Like lying on beds, and barking,  
And eating up shoes when they're new.

He always wants to be going  
Where he isn't suppose to go.

He tracks up the house when it's snowing—  
Oh puppy, I love you so.

## My Favorite Word

*Lucia and James L. Hymes, Jr.*

There is one word—  
My favorite—  
The very, very best.  
It isn't No or Maybe,  
It's Yes, Yes, Yes, Yes, YES!

"Yes, yes, you may," and  
"Yes, of course," and  
"Yes, please help yourself."  
And when I want a piece of cake,  
"Why, yes. It's on the shelf."

Some candy? "Yes."  
A cookie? "Yes."  
A movie? "Yes, we'll go."

I love it when they say my word:  
Yes, Yes, YES! (Not No.)

## My Visitors

*Ethel H. Chesterfield*

I built a little house,  
With a red front door;  
Someone came knocking,  
One, two, three, four!  
I hurried up to open it,  
And what did I see?  
Two squirrels and a dormouse  
Had come to visit me!

Their eyes were very wistful,  
As they peered inside my house;  
I stood aside to let them in,  
The squirrels and the dormouse;  
They curled up on the hearth rug  
To warm their little feet;  
I gave them buns and banbury cakes  
And apple tarts to eat.

And when I rose next morning,  
Before the early dawn,  
They'd gone, but on my doorstep  
Were hazelnuts and corn.

## The North Wind Doth Blow

*Author Unknown*

The north wind doth blow  
And we shall have snow,  
And what will poor robin do then, poor thing?  
    He'll sit in a barn,  
    And keep himself warm,  
And hide his head under his wing, poor thing!  
The north wind doth blow  
And we shall have snow,  
And what will the dormouse do then, poor thing?  
    Roll'd up like a ball,  
    In his nest snug and small,  
He'll sleep till warm weather comes in, poor thing!  
The north wind doth blow  
And we shall have snow,  
And what will the children do then, poor things?  
    When lessons are done,  
    They must skip, jump, and run  
Until they have made themselves warm, poor things!

## Neighborly

*Violet A. Storey*

My mother sends our neighbors things  
On fancy little plates.

One day she sent them custard pie  
And they sent back stuffed dates.

And once she sent them angel food  
And they returned ice cream;

Another time for purple plums  
They gave us devil's dream.

She always keeps enough for us  
No matter what she sends.

Our goodies seem much better  
When we share them with our friends.

And even if they didn't, why,  
It's surely lots of fun,

'Cause that way we get two desserts  
Instead of only one!

October

*Rose Fyleman*

The summer is over,  
The trees are all bare,  
There is mist in the garden  
And frost in the air.  
The meadows are empty  
And gathered the sheaves—  
But isn't it lovely  
Kicking up leaves!

John from the garden  
Has taken the chairs;  
It's dark in the evening  
And cold on the stairs.  
Winter is coming  
And everyone grieves—  
But isn't it lovely  
Kicking up leaves!

## Old Glory

*Alonzo Newton Benn*

I love each shining star because  
    It tells a wondrous story;  
I love each stripe in our dear flag,  
    The flag we call Old Glory!  
I love its field of azure blue,  
    Each star that twinkles there;  
I love its red and snowy white  
    To me it all is fair.  
I love to see it float on high  
    Above each tower and steeple;  
I love to doff my hat to it  
    The flag of a free people.  
I love Old Glory more each day,  
    The banner of our nation;  
America, our native land  
    A land of God's creation!

## On Eating Porridge Made of Peas

*Louis Phillips*

Peas porridge hot,  
Peas porridge—hold!  
Who eats peas porridge?  
Who is so bold?

I know I never munch  
Peas porridge for my lunch,  
and, as for dinner,  
Peas porridge is no winner.

Peas porridge ice cold,  
Peas porridge tepid,  
Who eats peas porridge?  
Who could be so stupid?

Peas porridge nine days old—ugh!  
I think I'd prefer to eat a rug.

## Opossum

*William Jay Smith*

Have you ever in your life seen a

Possum play possum?

Have you ever in your life seen a

Possum play dead?

When a Possum is trapped and can't get away

He turns up his toes and lays down his head,

Bats both his eyes and rolls over dead.

But then when you leave him and run off to play,

The Possum that really was just playing possum

Gets up in a flash and scurries away.

## Out in the Fields with God

*Elizabeth Barrett Browning*

The little cares that fretted me  
I lost them yesterday  
Among the fields, above the sea,  
Among the winds at play,  
Among the lowing of the herds,  
The rustling of the trees,  
Among the singing of the birds,  
The humming of the bees.

The foolish fears of what might happen,  
I cast them all away,  
Among the clover-scented grass,  
Among the new-mown hay,  
Among the husking of the corn,  
Where drowsy poppies nod,  
Where ill thoughts die and good are born--  
Out in the fields with God.

## The Owl

*Alfred, Lord Tennyson*

When cats run home and light is come,  
And dew is cold upon the ground,  
And the far-off stream is dumb,  
And the whirring sail goes round,  
And the whirring sail goes round;  
Alone and warming his five wits,  
The white owl in the belfry sits.  
When merry milkmaids click the latch,  
And rarely smells the new-mown hay,  
And the cock hath sung beneath the thatch  
Twice or thrice his roundelay,  
Twice or thrice his roundelay;  
Alone and warming his five wits,  
The white owl in the belfry sits.

## A Pop Corn Song

*Nancy Byrd Turner*

Sing a song of pop corn  
When the snowstorms rage;  
Fifty little brown men  
Put into a cage.  
Shake them till they laugh and leap  
Crowding to the top;  
Watch them burst their little coats  
Pop!! Pop!! Pop!!

Sing a song of pop corn  
In the firelight;  
Fifty little fairies  
Robed in fleecy white.  
Through the shining wires see  
How they skip and prance  
To the music of the flames;  
Dance!! Dance!! Dance!!

Sing a song of pop corn  
Done the frolicking;  
Fifty little fairies  
Strung upon a string.  
Cool and happy, hand in hand,  
Sugar-spangled, fair;  
Isn't that a necklace fit  
For any child to wear?

## Rain in Summer

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

How beautiful is the rain!  
After the dust and heat,  
In the broad and fiery street,  
In the narrow lane,  
How beautiful is the rain!  
How it clatters along the roofs,  
Like the tramp of hoofs!

How it gushes and struggles out  
From the throat of the overflowing spout!  
Across the window pane  
It pours and pours;  
And swift and wide,  
With a muddy tide,  
Like a river down the gutter roars  
The rain, the welcome rain!

## The Rain Song

*Robert Loveman*

It is not raining rain for me,  
It's raining daffodils  
In every dimpled drop I see  
Wild flowers on the hills.

The clouds of gray engulf the day  
And overwhelm the town;  
It is not raining rain to me  
It's raining roses down.

It is not raining rain to me,  
But fields of clover bloom,  
Where any buccaneering bee  
May find a bed and room.

A health unto the happy,  
A fig for him who frets!  
It is not raining rain to me,  
It's raining violets.

## Recipe

*Walter Maughan*

I can make a sandwich.  
I can really cook.  
I made up this recipe  
that should be in a book:  
Take a jar of peanut butter,  
Give it a spread,  
until you have covered  
a half a loaf, of bread.  
Pickles and pineapple,  
strawberry jam  
salami and bologna  
and a half a pound of ham—  
Pour some catsup on it.  
Mix the mustard well.  
Will it taste delicious?  
Only you can tell.

## The Secrets of Our Garden

*Rupert Sargent Holland*

You think it's only a garden,  
With roses along the wall;

I'll tell you the truth about it—  
It isn't a garden at all

It's really Robin Hood's forest,  
And over by the big tree

Is the very place where fat Friar Tuck  
Fought with the Miller of Dee.

And back of the barn is a cavern  
Where Rob Roy really hid;

On the other side is a treasure chest  
That belonged to Captain Kidd.

That isn't the pond that you see there,  
It's an ocean deep and wide,

Where six-masted ships are waiting  
To sail on the rising tide.

Of course it looks like a garden  
It's all so sunny and clear—

You'd be surprised if you really knew  
The things that have happened here!

## The Seed Shop

*Muriel Stuart*

Here in a quiet and dusty room they lie,  
Faded as crumbled stone or shifting sand,  
Forlorn as ashes, shriveled, scentless, dry -  
Meadows and gardens running through my hand.

In this brown husk a dale of hawthorn dreams;  
A cedar in this narrow cell is thrust  
That will drink deeply of a century's streams;  
These lilies shall make summer on my dust.

Here in their safe and simple house of death,  
Sealed in their shells, a million roses leap;  
Here I can blow a garden with my breath,  
And in my hand a forest lies asleep.

## The Skylark

*Christina Rossetti*

The earth was green, the sky was blue:  
I saw and heard one sunny morn  
A skylark hang between the two,  
A singing speck above the corn:

A stage below, in gay accord,  
White butterflies danced on the wing,  
And still the singing skylark soared,  
And silent sank, and soared to sing.

The cornfield stretched a tender green  
To right and left beside my walks;  
I knew he had a nest unseen  
Somewhere among the million stalks.

And as I paused to hear his song,  
While swift the sunny moments slid.  
Perhaps his mate sat listening long,  
And listened longer than I did.

## A Sledding Song

*Norman C. Schlichter*

Sing a song of winter,  
Of frosty clouds in air!  
Sing a song of snowflakes  
Falling everywhere.

Sing a song of winter!  
Sing a song of sleds!  
Sing a song of tumbling  
Over heels and heads.

Up and down a hillside  
When the moon is bright,  
Sledding is a tiptop  
Wintertime delight.

## A Smile

*Author Unknown*

A smile costs nothing but gives much—  
It takes but a moment, but the memory of  
it usually lasts forever.  
None are so rich that can get along  
without it—  
And none are so poor but that can be  
made rich by it.  
It enriches those who receive  
Without making poor those who give—  
It creates sunshine in the home,  
Fosters goodwill in business  
And is the best antidote for trouble—  
And yet it cannot be begged, borrowed or  
stolen, for it is of no value  
Unless it is freely given away.  
Some people are too busy to give you a smile—  
Give them one of yours—  
For the good Lord knows, that no one  
needs a smile so badly  
As he or she who has no more smiles left to give.

## The Snail

*Charles Lamb*

The frugal snail, with forecast of repose,  
Carries his house with him where'er he goes;  
Peeps out — and if there comes a shower of rain,  
Retreats to his small domicile again,  
Touch but a tip of him, a horn — 'tis well —  
He curls up in his sanctuary shell,  
He's his own landlord, his own tenant; stay  
Long as he will, he dreads no Quarter Day.  
Himself he boards and lodges; both invites  
And feasts himself; sleeps with himself o' nights.  
He spares the upholsterer trouble to procure  
Chattels; himself is his own furniture,  
And his sole riches. Whereso'er he roam —  
Knock when you will — he's sure to be at home.

## The Snowbird

*Frank Dempster Sherman*

When all the ground with snow is white,  
The merry snowbird comes,  
And hops about with great delight  
To find the scattered crumbs.  
How glad he seems to get to eat  
A piece of cake or bread!  
He wears no shoes upon his feet,  
Nor hat upon his head.  
But happiest is he, I know,  
Because no cage with bars  
Keeps him from walking on the snow  
And printing it with stars.

## Someone

*Walter de la Mare*

Someone came knocking,  
At my wee, small door;  
Someone came knocking,  
I'm sure —sure—sure;  
I listened, I opened,  
I looked to left and right,  
But nought there was a-stirring  
In the still dark night;  
Only the busy beetle  
Tap-tapping in the wall;  
Only from the forest  
The screech owl's call,  
Only the cricket whistling  
While the dewdrops fall,  
So I know not who came knocking,  
At all, at all, at all.

## Something Told the Wild Geese

*Rachel Field*

Something told the wild geese  
It was time to go.

Though the fields lay golden  
Something whispered, "Snow."

Leaves were green and stirring  
Berries, luster-glossed

But beneath warm feathers  
Something cautioned, "Frost."

All the sagging orchards  
Steamed with amber spice.

But each wild breast stiffened  
At remembered ice.

Something told the wild geese,  
It was time to fly—

Summer sun was on their wings,  
Winter in their cry.

## Song of the Train

*David McCord*

Clickety-clack,  
Wheels on the track,  
This is the way  
They begin the attack:  
Clickety-clack,  
Clickety-clack,  
Clickety, clackety,  
Clickety  
Clack.

Clickety-clack,  
Over the crack  
Faster and faster  
The song of the track:  
Clickety-clack,  
Clickety-clack,  
Clickety, clackety,  
Clackety,  
Clack.

Riding in front,  
Riding in back,  
Everyone hears  
The song of the track:  
Clickety-clack,  
Clickety-clack,  
Clickety, clickety,  
Clackety,  
Clack.

# Spaghetti

*Shel Silverstein*

Spaghetti, spaghetti, all over the place,  
Up to my elbows - up to my face,  
Over the carpet and under the chairs,  
Into the hammock and wound round the stairs,  
Filling the bathtub and covering the desk,  
Making the sofa a mad mushy mess.

The party is ruined, I'm terribly worried,  
The guests have all left (unless they're all buried).  
I told them, "Bring presents." I said, "Throw confetti."  
I guess they heard wrong  
'Cause they all threw spaghetti.

## Spread God's Word

*Alice Joyce Davidson*

Sometimes

I want to shout

with glee—

“Hey everybody,

Look at me—

I found God!”

I found Him

in the warmth of friendship

in the joy of giving

I found Him in loving

in laughing—

in living!

I found God

And you can find Him, too—

Just open up your heart

And God will come

to YOU!

## Spring

*William Blake*

Sound the flute!  
Now it's mute!  
Bird's delight,  
Day and night,  
Nightingale,  
In the dale,  
Lark in sky,--  
Merrily,  
Merrily merrily, to welcome in the year.

Little boy,  
Full of joy;  
Little girl,  
Sweet and small;  
Cock does crow,  
So do you;  
Merry voice,  
Infant noise;  
Merrily, merrily, to welcome in the year.

Little lamb,  
Here I am;  
Come and lick  
My white neck;  
Let me pull  
Your soft wool;  
Let me kiss  
Your soft face;  
Merrily, merrily, to welcome in the year.

## Spring Morning

*A. A. Milne*

Where am I going? I don't quite know.  
Down to the stream where the king-cups grow,  
Up on the hill where the pine trees blow,  
Anywhere, anywhere, I don't know.

Where am I going? The clouds sail by,  
Little ones, baby ones, over the sky.  
Where am I going? The shadows pass,  
Little ones, baby ones, over the grass.

If you were a cloud and sailed up there,  
You'd sail on water as blue as the air,  
And you'd see me here in the fields and say:  
"Doesn't the sky look green today?"

## Spring Prayer

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

For flowers that bloom about our feet;  
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;  
For song of bird, and hum of bee;  
For all things fair we hear or see,  
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

For blue of stream and blue of sky,  
For pleasant shade of branches high;  
For fragrant air and cooling breeze;  
For beauty of the blooming trees,  
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

## The Squirrel

*Author Unknown*

Whisky, frisky,  
Hippity hop,  
Up he goes  
To the treetop!

Whirly, twirly,  
Round and round,  
Down he scampers  
To the ground.

Furly, curly,  
What a tail!  
Tall as a feather,  
Broad as a sail!

Where's his supper?  
In the shell,  
Snappity, Crackity,  
Out it fell.

## The Steam Shovel

*Rowena Bennett*

The steam digger  
Is much bigger  
Than the biggest beast I know.  
He snorts and roars  
Like the dinosaurs  
That lived long years ago.

He crouches low  
On his tractor paws  
And scoops the dirt up  
With his jaws.  
Then swings his long  
Stiff neck around  
And spits it out  
Upon the ground ...

Oh, the steam digger  
Is much bigger  
Than the biggest beast I know.  
It snorts and roar  
Like the dinosaurs  
That lived long years ago.

## Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening

*Robert Frost*

Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.

## The Swing

*Robert Louis Stevenson*

How do you like to go up in a swing,  
Up in the air so blue?

Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing  
Ever a child can do!

Up in the air and over the wall,  
Till I can see so wide,

Rivers and trees and cattle and all  
Over the countryside—

Till I look down on the garden green,  
Down on the roof so brown—

Up in the air I go flying again,  
Up in the air and down!

## Taking Turns

*Brad Bagert*

Summer sunshine, summer heat  
Summer sandals on my feet.

Autumn, Autumn - turning cool.  
Time for me to go to school.

Winter, Winter — ice and snow,  
Bundle up from head to toe.

Springtime showers, warm and clean  
Everything I see is green.

Every year, it's only fair,  
All the seasons have to share,  
All the seasons have to learn  
That every season takes a turn.

## Thank God for Little Things

*Helen Steiner Rice*

Thank You, God, for little things  
that often come our way—

The things we take for granted  
but don't mention when we pray—

The unexpected courtesy,  
the thoughtful, kindly deed—

A hand reached out to help us  
in the time of sudden need—

Oh make us more aware, dear God,  
of little daily graces

That come to us with "Sweet Surprise"  
from never-dreamed-of places.

## Thanks, Dear Jesus

*Ed Brandt*

THANKS dear Jesus for dying for me,  
THANKS for your all on Calvary's tree,  
THANKS for your payment to set me free,  
THANKS for letting me ransomed be.  
THANKS for the tomb that could not contain  
My Lord and my Savior wherein He had lain,  
THANKS for your resurrection, for ascending on high,  
THANKS for your promise to return by and by.  
THANKS for your love because it never fails,  
THANKS for your grace, it always prevails,  
THANKS for the Holy Spirit, He keeps me from sin;  
THANKS be to Him who lives within.

## The Three Little Kittens

*Eliza Lee Follen*

Three little kittens lost their mittens;  
And they began to cry,  
    “Oh, mother dear,  
    We very much fear  
That we have lost our mittens.”  
    “Lost your mittens!  
    You naughty kittens!  
Then you shall have no pie!”  
    “Mee-ow, mee-ow,  
    mee-ow.”  
“No, you shall have no pie.”  
    “Mee-ow, mee-ow,  
    mee-ow.”

The three little kittens found their mittens;  
And they began to cry,  
    “Oh, mother dear,  
    See here, see here!  
See, we have found our mittens!”  
    “Put on your mittens,  
    You silly kittens,  
And you may have some pie.”  
    “Purr-r, purr-r, purr-r,  
Oh, let us have the pie!  
    Purr-r, purr-r, purr-r.”

## Traffic

*Jane Lear Talley*

In summertime our garden walk  
Is like a summer street;  
So many bugs run up and down  
With tiny little feet.

The ants are shiny taxicabs,  
Oh, my! They go so fast!  
Here comes a caterpillar bus  
Who slowly travels past.

I'm very sure that bugs must have  
Some very special vision;  
For I have never, never seen  
A bugmobile collision!

## Trees

*Joyce Kilmer*

I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

## Try, Try Again

*T. H. Palmer*

'Tis a lesson you should heed,  
If at first you don't succeed,  
Try, try again;

Then your courage should appear,  
For if you will persevere,  
You will conquer, never fear  
Try, try again;

Once or twice, though you should fail,  
If you would at last prevail,  
Try, try again;

If we strive, 'tis no disgrace  
Though we do not win the race;  
What should you do in the case?  
Try, try again

If you find your task is hard,  
Time will bring you your reward,  
Try, try again

All that other folks can do,  
Why, with patience, should not you?  
Only keep this rule in view:  
Try, try again.

## Tummyache

*Aileen Fisher*

Father said that maybe  
it was too much candy.

Mother said more likely  
it was gooseberry jam.

Father said that maybe  
with the sweet things handy

I forgot my gravy  
and vegetables and ham.

Mother said that prob'ly  
I had been too gob'ly.

Father nodded "probably"  
and so did Gram.

But I said "Certainly,  
it COULDN'T have been candy.

It must have been the gravy  
and vegetables  
and ham."

## Walking

*Grace Ellen Glaubitz*

When Daddy  
Walks  
With Jean and me,  
We have a  
Lot of fun  
Cause we can't  
Walk as fast  
As he,  
Unless we  
Skip and  
Run

I stretch,  
And stretch  
My legs so far,  
I nearly slip  
And fall—  
But how  
Does Daddy  
Take such steps?  
He doesn't stretch  
At all!

## Washing

*John Drinkwater*

What is all this washing about,  
Every day, week in, week out?  
From getting up till going to bed,  
I'm tired of hearing the same thing said.  
Whether I'm dirty or whether I'm not.  
Whether the water is cold or hot,  
Whether I like it or whether I don't,  
Whether I will or whether I won't,  
"Have you washed your hands, and washed your face?"  
I seem to live in the washing place.

Whenever I go for a walk or ride,  
As soon as I put my nose inside  
The door again, there's some one there  
With a sponge and soap, and a lot they care  
If I have something better to do,  
"Now wash your face and your fingers, too."

Before a meal is ever begun,  
And after ever a meal is done,  
It's time to turn on the waterspout.

Please, what is all this washing about?

## We Thank Thee

For mother-love and father-care,  
For brothers strong and sisters fair,  
For love at home and here each day,  
For guidance lest we go astray,  
    Father in Heaven, we thank Thee.

For this new morning with its light,  
For rest and shelter of the night,  
For health and food, for love and friends,  
For ev'rything His goodness sends,  
    Father in Heaven, we thank Thee.

For flowers that bloom around our feet,  
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet,  
For song of bird and hum of bee,  
For all things fair we hear or see,  
    Father in Heaven, we thank Thee.

For blue of stream and blue of sky,  
For pleasant shade of branches high,  
For fragrant air and cooling breeze,  
For beauty of the blooming trees,  
    Father in Heaven, we thank Thee.

## What Does the Little Birdie Say

*Alfred, Lord Tennyson*

What does the little birdie say,

In her nest at peep of day?

“Let me fly,” says little birdie,

“Mother, let me fly away.”

“Birdie, rest a little longer,

Till the little wings are stronger.”

So she rests a little longer,

Then she flies away.

What does little baby say,

In her bed at peep of day?

Baby says, like little birdie,

“Let me rise and fly away.”

“Baby, sleep a little longer,

Till the little limbs are stronger.”

If she sleeps a little longer,

Baby, too, shall fly away.

## What is Blue?

*Mary O'Neill*

Blue is the color of the sky  
Without a cloud  
Cool, distant, beautiful  
And proud.  
Blue is the quiet sea  
And the eyes of some people,  
And many agree  
As they grow older and older  
Blue is the scarf  
Spring wears on her shoulder.  
Blue is twilight,  
Shadows on snow,  
Blue is feeling  
Way down low.  
Blue is a heron,  
A sapphire ring,  
You can smell blue  
In many a thing:  
Gentian and larkspur  
Forget-me-nots, too.  
And if you listen  
You can hear blue  
In wind over water  
And wherever flax blooms  
And when evening steps into  
Lonely rooms.  
Cold is blue:  
Flame shot from a welding torch  
Is, too:  
Hot, wild, screaming, blistering Blue —  
And on winter mornings  
The dawns are blue ...

## What Is Pink?

*Christina Rossetti*

What is pink? A rose is pink  
By the fountain's brink.

What is red? A poppy's red  
In its barley bed.

What is blue? The sky is blue  
Where the clouds float through

What is white? A swan is white  
Sailing in the light.

What is yellow? Pears are yellow,  
Rich and ripe and mellow.

What is green? The grass is green  
With small flowers between.

What is violet? Clouds are violet  
In the summer twilight.

What is orange? Why, an orange,  
Just an orange!

## When Mother Reads Aloud

*Author Unknown*

When Mother reads aloud, the past  
    Seems real as every day;  
I hear the tramp of armies vast,  
I see the spears and lances cast,  
    I join the thrilling fray;  
Brave knights and ladies fair and proud  
I meet when Mother reads aloud.

When Mother reads aloud, far lands  
    Seem very near and true;  
I cross the desert's gleaming sands,  
Or hunt the jungle's prowling bands,  
    Or sail the ocean blue.  
Far heights, whose peaks the cold mists shroud,  
I scale, when Mother reads aloud.

When Mother reads aloud, I long  
    For noble deeds to do —  
To help the right, redress the wrong;  
It seems so easy to be strong,  
    So simple to be true.  
Oh, thick and fast the visions crowd  
My eyes, when Mother reads aloud.

## Where Go the Boats?

*Robert Louis Stevenson*

Dark brown is the river,  
    Golden is the sand.  
It flows along forever,  
    With trees on either hand.

Green leaves a-floating,  
    Castles of the foam,  
Boats of mine a-boating-  
    Where will all come home?

On goes the river  
    And out past the mill,  
Away down the valley  
    Away down the hill.

Away down the river,  
    A hundred miles or more,  
Other little children  
    Shall bring my boats ashore.

## Who Knows a Mountain?

*Ethel Romig Fuller*

Who knows a mountain?  
One who has gone  
To worship its beauty  
In the dawn;  
One who has slept  
On its breast at night;  
One who has measured  
His strength to its height;  
One who has followed  
Its longest trail.  
And laughed in the face  
Of its fiercest gale;  
One who has scaled its peaks,  
And has trod  
Its cloud-swept summits  
Alone with God.

## Wind on the Hill

*A. A. Milne*

No one can tell me,  
Nobody knows,

Where the wind comes from,  
Where the wind goes.

It's flying from somewhere  
As fast as it can

I couldn't keep up with it,  
Not if I ran.

But if I stopped holding  
The string of my kite,

It would blow with the wind  
For a day and a night.

And then when I found it,  
Wherever it blew,

I should know that the wind  
Had been going there too.

So then I could tell them  
Where the wind goes ...

But where the wind comes from  
Nobody knows.

## Wind Song

*Lilian Moore*

When the wind blows  
the quiet things speak.  
Some whisper, some clang,  
Some creak.

Grasses swish.  
Treetops sigh.  
Flags slap  
and snap at the sky.  
Wires on poles  
whistle and hum.  
Ash cans roll.  
Windows drum.

When the wind goes—  
suddenly  
then,  
the quiet things  
are quiet again.

## Windy Nights

*Robert Louis Stevenson*

Whenever the moon and stars are set,  
Whenever the wind is high,  
All night long in the dark and wet,  
A man goes riding by.  
Late in the night when the fires are out,  
Why does he gallop and gallop about?

Whenever the trees are crying aloud,  
And ships are tossed at sea,  
By, on the highway, low and loud,  
By at the gallop goes he.  
By at the gallop he goes, and then  
By he comes back at the gallop again.

## The Worm

*Ralph Bergengren*

When the earth is turned in spring  
The worms are fat as anything.

And birds come flying all around  
To eat the worms right off the ground.

They like worms just as much as I  
Like bread and milk and apple pie.

And once, when I was very young,  
I put a worm right on my tongue.

I didn't like the taste a bit,  
And so I didn't swallow it.

But oh, it makes my Mother squirm  
Because she thinks I ate the worm!

# First Grade: Bible Memory

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Please memorize from one of the following versions:

King James Version (KJV)

New American Bible (NAB)

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

New King James Version (NKJV)

New International Version (NIV)

English Standard Version (ESV)

Scripture passages presented here are from the New King James Version (NKJV) or the ESV.

## 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

## Isaiah 43:10-13

“You are My witnesses,” says the LORD,  
“ And My servant whom I have chosen,  
That you may know and believe Me,  
And understand that I am He.  
Before Me there was no God formed,  
Nor shall there be after Me.  
I, even I, am the LORD,  
And besides Me there is no savior.  
I have declared and saved,  
I have proclaimed,  
And there was no foreign god among you;  
Therefore you are My witnesses,”  
Says the LORD, “that I am God.  
Indeed before the day was, I am He;  
And there is no one who can deliver out of My hand;  
I work, and who will reverse it?”

## Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## John 14:1-6

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

## Psalm 27:1-3

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
Whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the strength of my life;  
Of whom shall I be afraid?  
When the wicked came against me  
To eat up my flesh,  
My enemies and foes,  
They stumbled and fell.  
Though an army may encamp against me,  
My heart shall not fear;  
Though war may rise against me,  
In this I will be confident.

## Proverbs 3:5-8

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths.

Be not wise in your own eyes;  
fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.

It will be healing to your flesh  
and refreshment to your bones.

## Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope  
of the glory of God.

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

## Colossians 2:6-10

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

## Isaiah 6:1-8

“In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory!’

And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: ‘Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!’

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: ‘Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.’

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me.’ “

## Psalm 63:1-11

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;  
To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.  
Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.  
Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.  
My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches.  
Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.  
My soul follows hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.  
But those that seek my soul, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth.  
They shall fall by the sword: they shall be a portion for foxes.  
Both the king shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by him shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped.

## Psalm 139:1-14

O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in the depths, you are there!

If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,"

even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day,

for darkness is as light with you.

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

## 2 Samuel 22:31-37

As for God, His way is perfect;  
The word of the LORD is proven;  
He is a shield to all who trust in Him.  
“For who is God, except the LORD?  
And who is a rock, except our God?  
God is my strength and power,  
And He makes my way perfect.  
He makes my feet like the feet of deer,  
And sets me on my high places.  
He teaches my hands to make war,  
So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.  
“You have also given me the shield of Your salvation;  
Your gentleness has made me great.  
You enlarged my path under me;  
So my feet did not slip.

from Jesus Storybook Bible

*Sally Lloyd Jones*

“They nailed Jesus to the cross.

‘Father, forgive them,’ Jesus gasped. ‘They don’t understand what they’re doing.’

‘You say you’ve come to rescue us!’ people shouted. ‘But you can’t even rescue yourself!’

But they were wrong. Jesus could have rescued himself. A legion of angels would have flown to his side — if he’d called.

‘If you were really the Son of God, you could just climb down off that cross!’ they said.

And of course they were right. Jesus could have just climbed down. Actually, he could have just said a word and made it all stop. Like when he healed that little girl. And stilled the storm. And fed 5,000 people.

But Jesus stayed.

You see, they didn’t understand. It wasn’t the nails that kept Jesus there. It was love.

‘Papa?’ Jesus cried, frantically searching the sky. ‘Papa? Where are you? Don’t leave me!’

And for the first time — and the last — when he spoke, nothing happened. Just a horrible, endless silence.

God didn’t answer. He turned away from his Boy.

Tears rolled down Jesus’ face. The face of the One who could wipe away every tear from every eye.”