

Whole Week Guided Reading

The Walrus and the Carpenter by Lewis Carroll

The sun was shining on the sea
Shining with all his might:
He did his very best to make
The billows smooth and bright-
And this was odd, because it was
The middle of the night.

The moon was shining sulkily,
Because she thought the sun
Had got no business to be there
After the day was done –
'It's very rude of him' she said,
'To come and spoil the fun!'

The sea was wet as wet could be,
The sands were dry as dry.
You could not see a cloud, because
No cloud was in the sky:
No bird was flying overhead –
There were no birds to fly

The Walrus and the Carpenter
Were walking close at hand;
They wept like anything to see
Such quantities of sand:
'If this were only cleared away,'
They said, 'it would be grand'.

'If seven maids with seven mops
Swept it for half a year,
Do you suppose,' the Walrus said,
'That they could get it clear?'
'I doubt it' said the Carpenter,
And shed a bitter tear.

'O Oysters, come and walk with us!'
The Walrus did beseech.
'A pleasant walk, a pleasant talk,
Along the briny beach:
We cannot do with more than four,
To give a hand to each'.
The eldest Oyster looked at him,
But never word he said:

The eldest Oyster winked his eye,
And shook his heavy head –
Meaning to say he did not choose
To leave the oyster bed.

But four young Oysters hurried up,
All eager for the treat:
Their coats were brushed, their faces washed,
Their shoes were clean and neat –
And this was odd, because, you know
They hadn't any feet.

Four other Oysters followed them,
And yet another four;
And thick and fast they came at last,
And more, and more, and more –
All hopping through the frothy waves,
And scrambling to the shore.

The Walrus and the Carpenter
Walked on a mile or so,
And then they rested on a rock
Conveniently low:
And all the little Oysters stood
And waited in a row.

'The time has come', the Walrus said,
'To talk of many things'
Of shoes – and ships – and sealing-wax –
Of cabbages – and kings –
And why the sea is boiling hot –
And whether pigs have wings.'

'But wait a bit', the Oysters cried,
'Before we have our chat;
For some of us are out of breath,
And all of us are fat!'
'No hurry!' said the Carpenter.
They thanked him much for that.

'A load of bread,' the Walrus said,
'Is what we chiefly need:
Pepper and vinegar besides
Are very good indeed –
Now if you're ready Oysters dear,
We can begin to feed.'

'But not on us!' the Oysters cried,
Turning a little blue.
'After such kindness, that would be
A dismal thing to do'!
'The night is fine,' the Walrus said,
'Do you admire the view?'

'It was so kind of you to come
And you are very nice!'
The Carpenter said nothing but
'Cut us another slice:
I wish you were not quite so deaf –
I've had to ask you twice!'

'It seems a shame', the Walrus said,
'To play them such a trick,
After we've brought them out so far,
And made them trot so quick!'
The Carpenter said nothing but
'The butter's spread too thick.

'I weep for you,' the Walrus said:
'I deeply sympathise.'
With sobs and tears he sorted out
Those of the largest size,
Holding his pocket- handkerchief
Before his streaming eyes.

'O Oysters,' said the Carpenter,
'You've had a pleasant run!
Shall we be trotting home again?'
But answer came there none –
And this was scarcely odd because
They'd eaten every one.

Monday

Read the poem carefully. Once you have finished watch the clip from 'Alice in Wonderland'. What's different about the verses in the video compared to the poem here?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00WCEbKM_SE

In your books, write a summary of the poem. What are the key events that happen?

Are there any similarities between this poem and 'The Spider and the Fly'? Write down any similarities or differences in your book.

Tuesday

Read the poem and make a note of any words you do not understand.

Set a timer and find the following words within the poem as quickly as you can:

- Billows
- Beseech
- Conveniently
- Chiefly
- Bitter

Match the words to their meanings.

Billows	to make an important or urgent request to; beg.
Beseech	a large wave in the ocean; swell.
Conveniently	Especially or in particular
Chiefly	easily used for someone's needs, purposes, or comfort; useful
Bitter	1. having a sharp, bad taste that is neither sour nor salty or 2. full of or causing anger, hatred, or sadness.

Once you have finished try to draw a picture to represent each word.

Answers at the bottom

Wednesday – Read the poem to refresh your memory.

Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. What is odd about the sun shining in verse one?
2. Why is the moon shining 'sulkily'?
3. Why could you not see a cloud?
4. What did the Walrus and the Carpenter weep about in verse four?
5. What do they invite the Oysters to do?
6. Who refuses to go with them?
7. What is odd about the Oysters wearing shoes?
8. What does the Walrus talk of to the Oysters?
9. What does the Walrus say that 'they chiefly need'?
10. What happens to the Oysters at the end?

Thursday

Re-read the poem. Can you find any examples of the following poetic features?

Feature	Example
Repetition	
Adjectives e.g. glistening	
Similes e.g. as hot as peppered curry	
Alliteration e.g. shimmering sun	
Verbs e.g. swimming	
Adverbs e.g. swimming <i>swiftly</i>	
Personification e.g. wind's breath	

Draw a table in your book and fill in some examples.

Friday- The Walrus and the Carpenter is a narrative poem; it tells a story. Write the story of what happened from the point of view of the eldest Oyster who stayed behind.

OR

Write a newspaper report about the suspicious disappearance of thousands of Oysters. Don't forget to give it a heading such as:

Oyster Ambush: Wicked Walrus and Cruel Carpenter Chief Suspects.

Also include witness statements (perhaps the eldest Oyster), and quotes from anyone relevant. Don't forget to use quotation marks for direct speech.

Answers

Billows

to make an important or urgent
request to; beg.

Beseech	a large wave in the ocean; swell.
Conveniently	Especially or in particular
Chiefly	easily used for someone's needs, purposes, or comfort; useful
Bitter	1. having a sharp, bad taste that is neither sour nor salty or 2. full of or causing anger, hatred, or sadness.

1. What is odd about the sun shining in verse one? It's odd that the sun is shining because it's the middle of the night.
2. Why is the moon shining 'sulkily'? The moon is sulking because it feels that the sun has no place being there.
3. Why could you not see a cloud? You could not see a cloud because there were no clouds in the sky.
4. What did the Walrus and the Carpenter weep about in verse four? The Walrus and the Carpenter were weeping about how much sand there was.
5. What do they invite the oysters to do? They invite the oysters to go for a walk.
6. Who refuses to go with them? The eldest oyster refuses to go with them.
7. What is odd about the oysters wearing shoes? It was odd that the oysters were wearing shoes because they didn't have any feet.
8. What does the Walrus talk of to the oysters?
The Walrus talks of many things to the oysters:
'Of shoes – and ships – and sealing-wax –
Of cabbages – and kings –
And why the sea is boiling hot –
And whether pigs have wings.'
9. What does the Walrus say that 'they chiefly need'? A loaf of bread is what the Walrus says they chiefly need.
10. What happens to the oysters at the end? At the end all the oysters are eaten.