

## Pleasant Sounds

The rustling of leaves under the feet in woods and under hedges;  
The crumpling of cat-ice and snow down wood-rides, narrow lanes, and every street  
causeway;  
Rustling through a wood or rather rushing, while the wind halloos in the oak-toop  
like thunder;  
The rustle of birds' wings startled from their nests or flying unseen into the bushes;  
The whizzing of larger birds overhead in a wood, such as crows, puddocks, buzzards;  
The trample of robins and woodlarks on the brown leaves, and the patter of squirrels  
on the green moss;  
The fall of an acorn on the ground, the pattering of nuts on the hazel branches as  
they fall from ripeness;  
The flirt of the groundlark's wing from the stubbles- how sweet such pictures on  
dewy mornings, when the dew flashes from its brown feathers!

*John Clare*

## Then Laugh

Build for yourself a strong box,  
Fashion each part with care;  
When it's strong as your hand can make it,  
Put all your troubles there;

Hide there all thought of your failures,  
And each bitter cup that you quaff;  
Lock all your heartaches within it,  
Then sit on the lid and laugh.

Tell no one else its contents,  
Never its secrets share;  
When you've dropped in your care and worry  
Keep them forever there;

Hide them from sight so completely  
That the world will never dream half;  
Fasten the strong box securely-  
Then sit on the lid and laugh.

*Bertha Adams Backus*

Monday – Pleasant Sounds / Then Laugh

1. In 'Pleasant Sounds', **find** and **copy** one word that describes how larger birds moved?

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2. How does 'Pleasant Sounds' make you feel? Why does it make you feel this way using examples from the poem?

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3. Number the following events 1-5 in the order which they happened in 'Then Laugh'.  
The first one has been done for you.

Fasten the box securely

Build a strong box

Hide from sight

Lock your heartaches within it

Laugh

4. Which poem do you like the most? Why is this better than the other?

Use evidence from both poems to explain your answer.

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5. How does 'Then Laugh' make you feel? Why does it make you feel this way using examples from the poem?

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# Prairie-Dog Town

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Old Peter Prairie-dog  
Builds him a house  
In Prairie-Dog Town,  
With a door that goes down  
And down and down,  
And a hall that goes under  
And under and under,  
Where you can't see the lightning,  
You can't hear the thunder,  
For they don't like thunder  
In Prairie-Dog Town.

Old Peter Prairie-Dog  
Digs him a cellar  
In Prairie-Dog Town,  
With a ceiling that is arched  
And a wall that is round,  
And the earth he takes out he makes into a mound.  
And the hall and the cellar  
Are dark as dark,  
And you can't see a spark,  
Not a single spark;  
And the way to them cannot be found.

Old Peter Prairie-Dog  
Knows a very clever trick  
Of behaving like a stick  
When he hears a sudden sound,  
Like an old dead stick;  
And when you turn your head  
He'll jump quick, quick,  
And be another stick  
When you look around.  
It is a clever trick,  
And it keeps him safe and sound  
In the cellar and the halls  
That are under the mound  
In Prairie-Dog Town.

*Mary Austin*

Tuesday – Prairie-Dog Town

1. Scan the text to highlight the following words.

Spark	Behaving	Lightning	Mound	Cellar
Dead	Arched	Sudden	Clever	Old

2. Match the statement to the quote from the text.

Builds	<i>Like a stick</i>
Behaving	<i>Him a house</i>
He'll jump	<i>That goes down</i>
door	<i>Quick, quick.</i>

3. Write down 3 things Old Peter Prairie-Dog does.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false.

Statement	True	False
They don't like thunder in Prairie-Dog Town		
Old Peter Prairie-Dog keeps safe by running away quickly		
The underground cellar is pitch black		
The cellar is above the mound		

5. What key themes can you identify in this poem? Why impression do you get of Old Peter Prairie-Dog and his town?

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# Dirty Face

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Where did you get such a dirty face,  
My darling dirty-faced child?  
I got it from crawling along in the dirt  
And biting two buttons off Jeremy's shirt.  
I got it from chewing the roots of a rose  
And digging for clams in the yard with my nose.  
I got it from peeking into a dark cave  
And painting myself like a Navajo brave.  
I got it from playing with coal in the bin  
And signing my name in cement with my chin.  
I got it from rolling around on the rug  
And giving the horrible dog a big hug.  
I got it from finding a lost silver mine  
And eating sweet blackberries right off the vine.  
I got it from ice cream and wrestling and tears  
And from having more fun than you've had in years.

*Shell Silverstein*

Wednesday – Dirty Face

1. What impressions do you get the dirty faced child?

<i>Impression</i>	<i>Evidence</i>

2. *'...and giving the horrible dog a big hug'*  
What does this suggest about the child?

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3. Do you think the parent is upset by the child being dirty?

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4. Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is fact or opinion.

<b>Statement</b>	<b>Fact</b>	<b>Opinion</b>
The dirty faced child signed his name in cement with his chin		
The dirty faced child enjoys peeking into dark caves		
The dirty faced child thinks chocolate ice-cream is the best.		
The child bit off two buttons from Jeremy's shirt		

5. *'And from having more fun than you've had in years'*  
What point is the author making by the final line of this poem?

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# Rathers

I know very well what I'd rather be  
If I didn't always have to be me!  
I'd rather be an owl,  
A downy feathered owl,  
A wink-ity, blink-ity, yellow-eyed owl  
In a hole in a hollow tree.  
I'd take my dinner in chipmunk town,  
And wouldn't I gobble the field mice  
down,  
If I were a wink-ity, blink-ity owl,  
And didn't always have to be me!

I know very well what I'd like to do  
If I didn't have to do what I do!  
I'd go and be a woodpecker,  
A rap-ity, tap-ity, red-headed  
woodpecker  
In the top of a tall old tree.  
And I'd never take a look  
At a lesson or a book,  
And I'd scold like a pirate on the sea,  
If I only had to do what I like to do,  
And didn't always have to be me!

Or else I'd be an antelope,  
A pronghorned antelope,  
With lots of other antelope  
Skimming like a cloud on a wire-grass  
plain.  
A bounding, bouncing antelope,  
You'd never get me back to my desk  
again!

Or I might be a puma,  
A singe-coloured puma,  
A slinking, sly-foot puma  
As fierce as fierce could be!  
And I'd wait by the waterholes where  
antelope drink  
In the cool of the morning  
And I do not think  
That ever any antelope could get away  
from me.

But if I were a hunter,  
A red Indian hunter -  
I'd like to be a hunter, -  
I'd have a bow made of juniper wood  
From a lightning-blasted tree,  
And I'd creep and I'd creep on that  
puma asleep  
A flint tipped arrow,  
An eagle feathered arrow,  
For a puma kills calves and a puma  
kills sheep,  
And he'd never eat any more antelope  
If he once met up with me!

*Mary Austin*

Thursday – Rathers

1. Who is narrating this poem? Use evidence from the poem to explain how you know.

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2. Why do you think the narrator envisages being another species? What does this tell you about the emotions of the narrator?

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3. What species would you want to be if you *didn't always have to be you'*? Why?

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1. *'Skimming like a cloud on a wire-grass plain, a bounding, bouncing antelope. You'd never get me back to my desk again!'*

What does this description tell us about the narrator?

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2. Can you explain one thing you like about the author's style of writing and one thing you didn't like. Use examples from the text to support your answer.

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