



# Edward Lear's Dream

## Activity 2 Write a Nonsense Rhyme / Poem

### Write a Nonsense Rhyme / Poem

This can be a whole class activity or, depending on their ages, they can write their own in pairs.

#### How to write a nonsense poem

There are numerous ways of writing nonsense rhymes. The important thing is to make it a fun exercise for the children. Try brainstorming different words to put into a poem. For older children you could ask the class for ten nouns, ten verbs and ten objects. Split them into pairs or groups and ask them to write a four or five line poem using some or all of the chosen words. If you need more structure ask the class to suggest a few possible opening lines e.g: The man sat on the gate.

Another method might be to write down a few sentences about something very ordinary, like making a drink, or going for a walk. E.g:

- I went to put the bins out
- I bought some bread
- I woke up in the middle of the night

Think of some random words you find funny, interesting or sound nice. E.g - Custard, Elephant, Squash etc or make up your own words.

Swap some of the ordinary words from your sentence for your interesting words. E.g:

I went to put the custard out  
And then I bought some bread  
I woke the elephant in the night  
With a squash upon my head

You've written a nonsense poem! Perform it with enthusiasm, actions and exaggerated expressions.

You can also write nonsense poems about a made-up subject. For example:

- A shark who is afraid of the dark.
- A pizza chef who doesn't know how to make pizza.
- A lion who is afraid an ant
- An acrobat who is afraid of heights

Remember, writing poetry should be fun - experiment with words and don't be afraid of making mistakes.