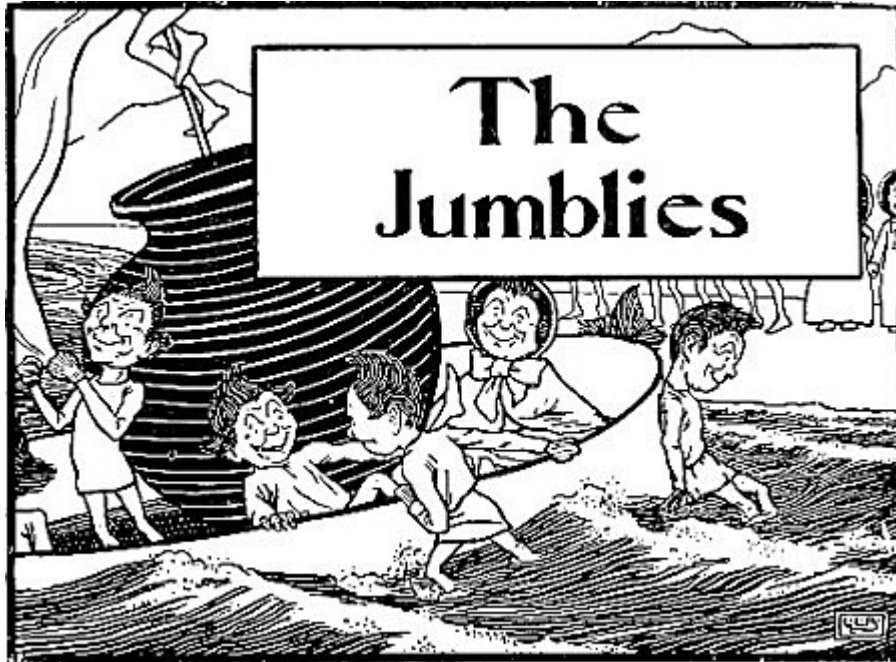


Name: _____

Date: _____

Poetry Worksheet

Read the poem below before answering the following questions.



I

They went to sea in a Sieve, they did,
In a Sieve they went to sea:
In spite of all their friends could say,
On a winter's morn, on a stormy day,
In a Sieve they went to sea!
And when the Sieve turned round and round,
And every one cried, 'You'll all be
drowned!'
They called aloud, 'Our Sieve ain't big,
But we don't care a button! we don't care a
fig!
In a Sieve we'll go to sea!'
Far and few, far and few,
Are the lands where the Jumblies live;
Their heads are green, and their hands are
blue,
And they went to sea in a Sieve.

II

They sailed away in a Sieve, they did,
In a Sieve they sailed so fast,
With only a beautiful pea-green veil
Tied with a riband by way of a sail,
To a small tobacco-pipe mast;
And every one said, who saw them go,
'O won't they be soon upset, you know!
For the sky is dark, and the voyage is long,
And happen what may, it's extremely wrong
In a Sieve to sail so fast!'
Far and few, far and few,
Are the lands where the Jumblies live;
Their heads are green, and their hands are
blue,
And they went to sea in a Sieve.

Name: _____

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III

The water it soon came in, it did,
The water it soon came in;
So to keep them dry, they wrapped their feet
In a pinky paper all folded neat,
And they fastened it down with a pin.
And they passed the night in a crockery-jar,
And each of them said, 'How wise we are!
Though the sky be dark, and the voyage be
long,
Yet we never can think we were rash or
wrong,
While round in our Sieve we spin!'
Far and few, far and few,
Are the lands where the Jumblies live;
Their heads are green, and their hands are
blue,
And they went to sea in a Sieve.

IV

And all night long they sailed away;
And when the sun went down,
They whistled and warbled a moony song
To the echoing sound of a coppery gong,
In the shade of the mountains brown.
'O Timballo! How happy we are,
When we live in a sieve and a crockery-jar,
And all night long in the moonlight pale,
We sail away with a pea-green sail,
In the shade of the mountains brown!'
Far and few, far and few,
Are the lands where the Jumblies live;
Their heads are green, and their hands are
blue,
And they went to sea in a Sieve.

V

They sailed to the Western Sea, they did,
To a land all covered with trees,
And they bought an Owl, and a useful Cart,
And a pound of Rice, and a Cranberry Tart,
And a hive of silvery Bees.
And they bought a Pig, and some green
Jack-daws,
And a lovely Monkey with lollipop paws,
And forty bottles of Ring-Bo-Ree,
And no end of Stilton Cheese.
Far and few, far and few,
Are the lands where the Jumblies live;
Their heads are green, and their hands are
blue,
And they went to sea in a Sieve.

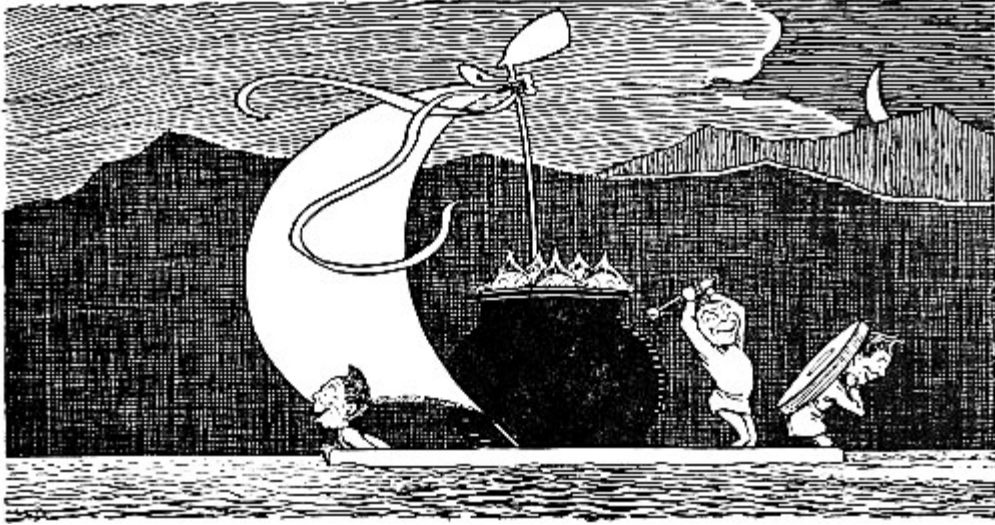
VI

And in twenty years they all came back,
In twenty years or more,
And every one said, 'How tall they've
grown!'
For they've been to the Lakes, and the
Terrible Zone,
And the hills of the Chankly Bore;
And they drank their health, and gave them a
feast
Of dumplings made of beautiful yeast;
And everyone said, 'If we only live,
We too will go to sea in a Sieve,—
To the hills of the Chankly Bore!'
Far and few, far and few,
Are the lands where the Jumblies live;
Their heads are green, and their hands are
blue,
And they went to sea in a Sieve.

-- Edward Lear 1872

Name: _____

Date: _____



Questions:

A. Read to understand

Write a summary of the poem.

B. Literal questions

1. Who wrote this poem?

2. When was the poem written?

Name: _____

Date: _____

3. What is the theme of this poem?

4. Who are the characters in the story?

5. Why do you think the poet wrote this poem?

6. Describe the Jumblies?

7. What did they sail away in?

8. Why did others object to the sailing?

9. Why were the Jumblies sailing off confident they would not drown?

10. Did the Jumblies ever regretted their action? Give examples from the poem.

Name: _____

Date: _____

11. What did the Jumblies bring with them on the journey?

12. What did the Jumblies do when the water came in the boat?

13. Where did Jumblies go? Name some places they most likely visited.

14. How long did Jumblies stay away?

C. Discuss

1. How do you respond to criticism?
2. What is the boldest thing you would like to do?
3. Reflection question: Have you ever been doubted you could do something? How did you feel?

Name: _____

Date: _____

D. Inferential questions

1. What is the significance of the colour pea-green?

2. Irony is most present in this poem. How is it used? Explain.

3. What does the following words mean:

a. sieve _____

b. silvery _____

E. Read to appreciate

4. What is a nonsense poem? What qualifies this poem as a nonsense poem?

5. How does this poem appeal to the senses?

Name: _____

Date: _____

6. Name five false claims from the poem?

7. List the rhyming words from the poem for the following words.

Stanza one rhymes	Stanza two rhymes
Stanza three rhymes	Stanza four rhymes
Stanza five rhymes	Stanza six rhymes

Name: _____

Date: _____

8. What is the rhyming scheme for this poem?

9. Why does the Jumblies exclaim the following lines in stanza 3?

“...though the sky be dark, and the voyage be long/Yet we never can think we were rash or wrong/While round in our Sieve we spin!”

10. Why does the following phrases mean?

“...we don't care a fig!” (line 9, stanza 1)

“...no end of Stilton Cheese” (line 9, Stanza V)

11. What is the tone of this poem?

12. Explain the following lines from the last stanza.

*And every one said, 'How tall they've grown!'
For they've been to the Lakes, and the Terrible Zone,
And the hills of the Chankly Bore;
And they drank their health, and gave them a feast
Of dumplings made of beautiful yeast;*

Name: _____

Date: _____

13. Why did the people later say: 'If we only live, We too will go to sea in a Sieve...'?

F. Visualization Exercise

Draw the boat the Jumblies sailed off in.

