



State Standards



K-1 Poetry
Text Exemplars

"As I Was Going to St. Ives"
by anonymous

As I was going to St. Ives,
I met a man with seven wives,
Each wife had seven sacks,
Each sack had seven cats,
Each cat had seven kits:
Kits, cats, sacks and wives,
How many were going to St. Ives?

"Mix a Pancake"
by Christina G. Rossetti

Mix a pancake,
Stir a pancake,
Pop it in the pan;
Fry the pancake;
Toss the pancake—
Catch it if you can.

"Singing Time"
by Rose Fyleman

I wake in the morning early
And always, the very first thing,
I poke out my head and I sit up in bed
And I sing and I sing and I sing

"Halfway Down"
by A. A. Milne

Halfway down the stairs
Is a stair where I sit.
There isn't any other stair
Quite like it.
I'm not at the bottom,
I'm not at the top;
So this is the stair
Where I always stop.

Halfway up the stairs
Isn't up and isn't down.
It isn't in the nursery,
It isn't in the town.
And all kinds of funny thoughts
Go running round my head:
"It isn't really anywhere!
It's somewhere else instead!"

"The Drinking Fountain"
by Marchette G. Chute

When I climb up
To get a drink,
It doesn't work
The way you'd think.

I turn it up,
The water goes
And hits me right
Upon the nose.

I turn it down
To make it small
And don't get any
Drink at all.

"Wouldn't You?"
by John Ciardi

If I
Could go
As high
And low
As the wind
As the wind
As the wind
Can blow—
I'd go!

"Laughing Boy"
by Richard Wright

In the falling snow
A laughing boy holds out his palms
Until they are white.

"By Myself"

by Eloise Greenfield

When I'm by myself

And I close my eyes

I'm a twin

I'm a dimple in a chin

I'm a room full of toys

I'm a squeaky noise

I'm a gospel song

I'm a gong

I'm a leaf turning red

I'm a loaf of brown bread

I'm a whatever I want to be

An anything I care to be

And when I open my eyes

What I care to be

Is me.

"Covers"

by Nikki Giovanni

Glass covers windows
to keep the cold away
Clouds cover the sky
to make a rainy day
Nighttime covers
all the things that creep
Blankets cover me
when I'm asleep

"It Fell in the City"
by Eve Merriam

It fell in the city,
It fell through the night,
And the black roof tops
All turned white.

Red fire hydrants
All turned white.
Blue police cars
All turned white.

Green garbage cans
All turned white
Gray sidewalks
All turned white

Yellow NO PARKING signs
All turned white
When it fell in the city
All through the night.

"Celebration"
by Alonzo Lopez

I shall dance tonight.
When the dusk comes crawling,
There will be dancing
and feasting.
I shall dance with the others
in circles,
in leaps,
in stomps.

Laughter and talk
Will weave into the night,
Among the fires
of my people.
Games will be played
And I shall be
a part of it.

"Two Tree Toads"

by Jon Agee

A three-toed tree toad tried to tie
A two-toed tree toad's shoe.
But tying two-toed shoes is hard
For three-toed toads to do,
Since three-toed shoes each have three
toes,
And two-toed shoes have two.

"Please tie my two-toed tree toad shoe!"
The two-toed tree toad cried.
"I tried my best. Now I must go,"
The three-toed tree toad sighed.
The two-toed tree toad's two-toed shoe,
Alas, remained untied.