

POETRY UNIT

TASK 3

Read this poem by Allan Ahlberg:



Excuses

By Allan Ahlberg

I've writ on the wrong page, Miss.

My pencil went all blunt.

My book was upside down, Miss.

My book was back to front.

My margin's gone all crooked, Miss.

I've smudged mine with my scarf.

I've rubbed a hole in the paper, Miss.

My ruler's broke in half.

My work's blew out the window, Miss.

My work's fell in the bin.

The leg's dropped off my chair, Miss.

The ceiling's coming in.

I've ate a poison apple, Miss.

I've held a poison pen!

I think I'm being *kidnapped*, Miss!

So... can we start again?

Once you have read the poem a couple of times, complete the following activities...

- Find and highlight all the rhyming words. What do you notice about the pattern?
- Carefully count the syllables on each line of the poem... What do you notice about the pattern?

Think carefully about the rhyming pattern and the number of syllables in each line to complete this task.

Stanza 1	Number of syllables
Burble! Splash! Rumble! Crash!	
Crystal cascades dance and shimmer	
Fizzle, hiss, splish and splash!	

Tick the line that would finish off this stanza best:

	Number of syllables	Tick
1. Ripples sparkle so and glimmer		
2. Blue and green bubbles rise up and start to glimmer		

Stanza 2	Number of syllables
Silver mists fill the air	6
As surges powerfully pour	8
Crashing waves deafening	6

Tick the line that would finish off this stanza best:

	Number of syllables	Tick
1. As mighty surges crash upon the shore, all sandy and bare		
2. As if they do not at all care		

Stanza 3	Number of syllables
Healer, stealer, amazer of minds	
Washes of turquoise, splashes of blue	
Creator, destroyer, bringer of tides	

Tick the line that would finish off this stanza best:

	Number of syllables	Tick
1. Recycled all the time and turned from very old to very new		
2. You've been here centuries, strange although true!		

CHALLENGE: Can you write a fourth stanza to this poem? Remember to count your syllables carefully to give your poem rhythm and try to rhyme if you can.

