

Cats and Other Animals: Stress and Rhythm

This worksheet was created by Patricia Galien and Nanci Graves.

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Part I. With a partner take turns reading the following lines out loud. Then with your pencil, mark the stress and circle the words that rhyme.

Jellicle Cats are black and white,
 Jellicle Cats are rather small;
 Jellicle Cats are merry and bright,
 And pleasant to hear when they caterwaul.

(from *The Song of the Jellicles* by T.S. Eliot)

Part II. As a group, you will be asked to perform one of the following poems. Read it creatively with proper stress, rhythm, intonation and drama. In order to get ready for your "performance" please do the following:

1. Read the poem silently and make sure that you understand it. Ask your teacher for help if you are not sure what the poem means.
2. As a group read the poem out loud several times.
3. Underline the words that are stressed. Take notes on words that should be read loudly, slowly, quietly or quickly.
4. As a group decide who will read what. You might want to read some parts as a group or assign other parts to one or more students.
5. Work together to make your presentation dramatic and expressive. Add any facial expressions, gestures or actions which you feel will help convey the meaning and contribute to the rhythm of your reading.
6. Practice your poem. Ask your teacher for advice if you feel you need it.
7. Stand in front of the class and make sure the rest of the class understands the poem.
8. Perform your poem. Listen to the other groups perform and give them feedback.

1. Feeding Time

by Shel Silverstein

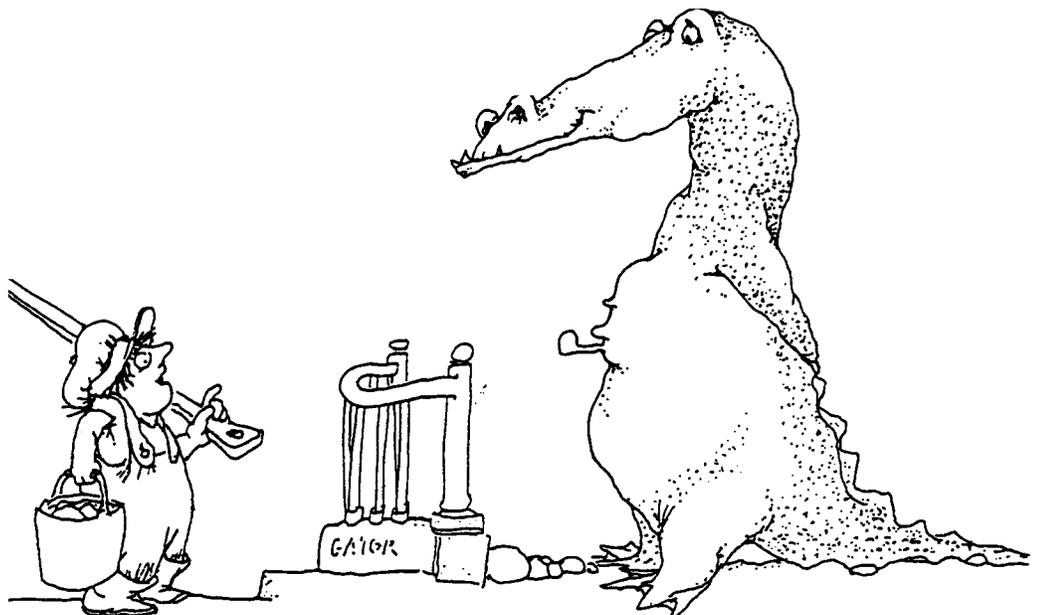
Oh alligator, palligator, get up out of bed.
 It's breakfast time and I can't find
 Our keeper Mister Fred.
 He smokes a pipe and wears a little
 Derby on his head,
 And he was 'sposed to
 meet me here
 to help to get you fed.

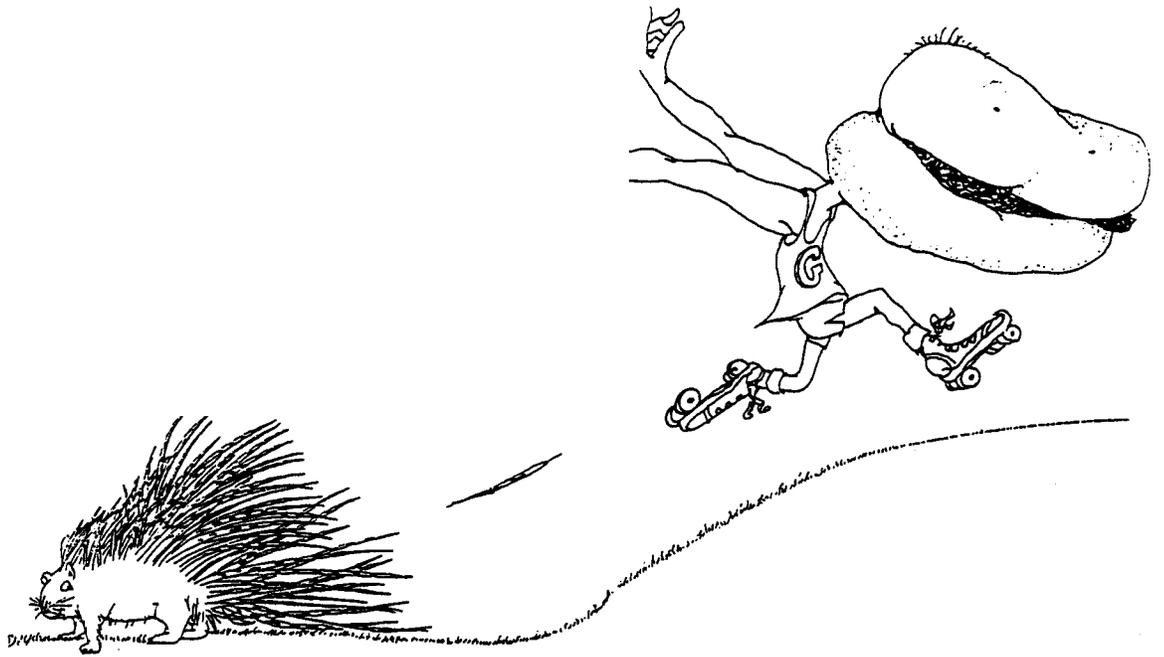
* *Palligator* is not a real word. The writer made it up because he wanted something to rhyme with alligator and also because it sounds cute.

* *Our keeper Mister Fred* refers to the zookeeper, -- the man who is supposed to take care of the alligator.

* A *derby* is a type of hat.

* *'Sposed* is a shortened form of *supposed*.





2. The Porky *

*A porky is a porcupine.
by Shel Silverstein

Oh who will wash the porky's ears,
And who will comb his tail,
And who will shine his long sharp quills
And manicure his nails?

Oh Willie may wash the porky's ears,
And Carole may comb his tail,
And Sidney may shine his long sharp quills,
And I'll go down for the mail.

3. A Use for a Moose

by Shel Silverstein

The antlers of a standing moose,
As everybody knows,
Are just the perfect place to hang
Your wet and drippy clothes.
It's quick and cheap, but I must say
I've lost a lot of clothes that way.



Performance Feedback: Use this form to give feedback to the group that you watch perform.

Circle the name of the group:

Alligator

Porky

Moose

Category	Praise	Suggestions
Use of Stress and Intonation		
Rhythm		
Use of Drama		

Performance Feedback: Use this form to give feedback to the group that you watch perform.

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