

Selection	Page Number	Degree of Difficulty
Be Kind	3	1
The Bluebird	4	4
Books Fall Open	5	3
A Child's Prayer	6	1
A Child's Thought of God	7	2
Circus	8	4
The Creation	9	3
The Egg	10	5
Every Time I Climb a Tree	11	1
The Friendly Beasts	12	2
The Gift of Friendship	13	1
The Good Little Girl	14	2
Hide and Seek	15	1
Hiding	16	4
The Horse	17	4
Kindness to Animals	18	2
The Library	19	3
Lily White Lily	20	4
Mice in the Hay	21	4

Selection	Page Number	Degree of Difficulty
Minnie and Winnie	22	3
A Mortifying Mistake	23	3
My Dog	24	3
The Owl	25	3
The Seed Shop	26	5
Sermons We See	27	4
The Snail	28	3
The Snake	29	5
Something Told the Wild Geese	30	2
Spring	31	1
The Story of Flying Robert	32	4
Three Words of Strength	33	5
Tiger-Cat Tim	34	4
To a Snowflake	35	5
A Tragedy	36	1
Try, Try Again	37	2
The Tyger	38	5
Us Two	39	5
What Have We Done Today?	40	5
The Wind	41	3
A Wrecker or a Builder	42	4

## **Be Kind**

*Alice Joyce Davidson*

Just a little bit of kindness  
Can go a long, long way,  
Just a little bit of tenderness  
Can brighten up a day.

Just a bit of praise where it's deserved  
Can bring a happy glow,  
Just a hand held out can give some hope  
To someone feeling low.

A forgiving word, a handshake,  
A pat upon the head,  
Can take away a heavy heart  
And bring a smile instead.

Just a little bit of kindness  
Can go a long, long way  
In reflecting the benevolence  
God shows us every day!

Degree of Difficulty: 1

Classical Christian Speech Meet

## **The Bluebird**

*Emily Huntington Miller*

I know the song that the bluebird is singing,  
Out in the apple tree where he is swinging.  
Brave little fellow! The skies may look dreary--  
Nothing cares he while his heart is so cheery.

Hark! how the music leaps out from his throat!  
Hark! Was there ever so merry a note?  
Listen awhile and you'll hear what he's saying,  
Up in the apple tree swinging and swaying.

"Dear little blossoms down under the snow,  
You must be weary of winter, I know;  
Hark, while I sing you a message of cheer  
Summer is coming and springtime is here!"

"Little white snowdrops, I pray you arise;  
Bright yellow, crocus, come, open your eyes;  
Sweet little violets, hid from the cold,  
Put on your mantles of purple and gold.  
Daffodils, daffodils! Say, do you hear?  
Summer is coming and springtime is here!

Degree of Difficulty: 4

Classical Christian Speech Meet

## **Books Fall Open**

*David McCord*

Books fall open,  
You fall in,  
Delighted where  
You've never been;  
Hear voices not once  
Heard before,  
Reach world on world  
Through door on door;  
Find unexpected  
Keys to things  
Locked up beyond  
Imaginings.  
What might you be,  
Perhaps become.  
Because one book  
Is somewhere? Some  
Wise delver into  
Wisdom, wit,  
And wherewithal  
Has written it.  
True books will venture,  
Dare you out,  
Whisper secrets,  
Maybe shout  
Across the gloom  
To you in need,  
Who hanker for  
A book to read.

Degree of Difficulty: 3

### **A Child's Prayer**

*From The Children's Book of Virtues*

Lord, teach a little child to pray,  
And then accept my prayer;  
For thou canst hear the words I say,  
For thou art everywhere.

A little sparrow cannot fall  
Unnoticed, Lord, by thee;  
And though I am so young and small,  
Thou dost take care of me.

Teach me to do the thing that's right,  
And when I sin, forgive;  
And make it still my chief delight  
To serve thee while I live.

Degree of Difficulty: 1

Classical Christian Speech Meet

A Child's Thought of God

*Elizabeth Barrett Browning*

They say that God lives very high!  
But if you look above the pines  
You cannot see our God. And why?

And if you dig down in the mines  
You never see Him in the gold,  
Though from Him all that's glory shines.

God is so good, He wears a fold  
Of heaven and earth across His face--  
Like secrets kept, for love untold.

But still I feel that His embrace  
Slides down by thrills, through all things  
Through sight and sound of every place:

As if my tender mother laid  
On my shut lids her kisses' pressure,  
Half-waking me at night and said  
'Who kissed you through the dark dear guesser?'

Degree of Difficulty: 2

Classical Christian Speech Meet

**Circus***Eleanor Farjeon*

The band blares,  
The naphtha flares,  
The sawdust smells,  
Showmen ring bells,  
And oh! Right into the circus ring  
Comes such a lovely, lovely thing,  
A milk-white pony with flying tress,  
And a beautiful lady,  
A beautiful lady,  
A beautiful lady in a pink dress!  
The red-and-white clown  
For joy tumbles down.  
Like a pink rose  
Round she goes  
On her tiptoes  
With the pony under--  
And then, oh, wonder!  
The pony his milk-white tresses droops,  
And the beautiful lady,  
The beautiful lady,  
Flies like a bird through the paper hoops!  
The red-and-white clown for joys falls dead,  
The he waggles his feet and stands on his head,  
And the little boys on the two penny seats  
Scream with laughter and suck their sweets.

Degree of Difficulty: 4



## **The Creation**

*Cecil Frances Alexander*

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures, great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens.  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colors,  
He made their tiny wings;

The rich man in his castle,  
The poor man at his gate,  
God made them, high or lowly,  
And order'd their estate.

The purple-headed mountain,  
The river running by,  
The sunset and the morning  
That brightens up the sky;

The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun  
The ripe fruits in the garden--  
He made them everyone.

The tall trees in the greenwood,  
The meadows where we play,  
The rushes by the water  
We gather every day;

He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is God Almighty  
Who has made all things well!  
Degree of Difficulty: 3

**The Egg**

*Laura E. Richards*

Oh! How shall I get it, how shall I get it--  
A nice little new-laid egg?  
My grandmamma told me to run to the barn-yard,  
And see if just one I could beg.  
Mooly-cow, Mooly-cow, down in the meadow,  
Have you any eggs, I pray?  
The mooly-cow stares as if I were crazy,  
And solemnly stalks away.

“Oh, Doggie, Doggie, perhaps you may have it,  
That nice little egg for me.”  
But Doggie just wags his tail and capers,  
And never an egg has he.  
“Now, Dobbin, Dobbin, I’m sure you must have one,  
Hid down in your manger there,”  
But Dobbin lays back his ears and whinnies,  
With “Come and look, if you dare!”

Piggywig, Piggywig, grunting and squealing,  
Are you crying ‘Fresh eggs of sale’?  
No! Piggy, you’re very cold and unfeeling,  
With that impudent quirk in your tail.”  
“You wise old Gobbler, you look so knowing,  
I’m sure you can find me an egg.  
You stupid old thing! Just say ‘Gobble-gobble.’  
And balance yourself on one leg.”  
Oh! How shall I get it, how shall I get it--  
That little white egg so small?  
I’ve asked every animal here in the barnyard,  
And they won’t give me any at all.  
But after I’d hunted until I was tired  
I found--not one egg, but ten!  
And you never could guess where they all were hidden--  
Right under our old speckled hen!  
Degree of Difficulty: 5

## **Every Time I Climb a Tree**

*David McCord*

Every time I climb a tree  
Every time I climb a tree  
Every time I climb a tree  
I scrape a leg  
Or skin a knee  
And every time I climb a tree  
I find some ants  
Or dodge a bee  
And get the ants  
All over me.

And every time I climb a tree  
Where have you been?  
They say to me  
But don't they know that I am free  
Every time I climb a tree?  
I like it best to spot a nest  
That has an egg  
Or maybe three.

And then I skin  
The other leg  
But every time I climb a tree  
I see a lot of things to see  
Swallows, rooftops and TV  
And all the fields and farms there be  
Every time I climb a tree.  
Though climbing may be good for ants  
It isn't awfully good for pants  
But still it's pretty good for me  
Every time I climb a tree.

Degree of Difficulty: 1

**The Friendly Beasts**

*An old carol from France*

Jesus our brother, kind and good,  
Was humbly born in a stable rude;  
The friendly beasts around Him stood,  
Jesus our brother, kind and good.  
“I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown,  
“I carried His mother up hill and down;  
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town,  
I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown

“I,” said the cow, all white and red,  
“I gave Him my manger for His bed;  
I gave Him my hay to pillow his head.  
I,” said the cow, all white and red.  
“I,” said the sheep with the curly horn,  
“I gave Him my wool for a blanket warm.  
He wore my coat on Christmas morn.  
I,” said the sheep with the curly horn.

“I,” said the dove from the rafters high,  
“I cooed Him to sleep so He would not cry,  
I cooed Him to sleep, my mate and I.  
I,” said the dove from the rafters high.  
And every beast, by some good spell,  
In the stable dark was glad to tell,  
Of the gift he gave Immanuel.  
The gift he gave immanuel.

Degree of Difficulty: 2

Classical Christian Speech Meet

## **The Gift of Friendship**

*Helen Steiner Rice*

Friendship is a priceless gift that cannot  
Be bought or sold  
But its value is far greater than a  
Mountain of gold.  
For gold is cold and lifeless, it can neither  
See nor hear,  
And in the time of trouble, it is powerless  
To cheer.  
It has no ears to listen, no heart to  
Understand.  
It cannot bring you comfort, or reach out  
A helping hand.  
So when you ask God for a gift, be  
thankful if He sends  
Not diamonds, pearls or riches, but the  
Love of real true friends.

Degree of Difficulty: 1

Classical Christian Speech Meet

## The Good Little Girl

*A. A. Milne*

It's funny how often they say to me, "Jane?"  
"Have you been a good girl?"  
"Have you been a good girl?"  
And when they have said it, they say it again,  
"Have you been a good girl?"  
"Have you been a good girl?"

I go to a party, I go out to tea,  
I go to an aunt for a week at the sea,  
I come back from school or from  
Playing a game;

Whenever I come from, it's always the same:  
"Well?  
Have you been a good girl, Jane?"  
It's always the end of the loveliest day:  
"Have you been a good girl?"  
"Have you been a good girl?"  
Well, what did they think that I went there to do?  
And why should I want to be bad at the Zoo?  
And should I be likely to say if I had?  
So that's why it's funny of Mummy and Dad,  
This asking and asking, in case I was bad,  
"Well?  
Have you been a good girl, Jane?"

Degree of Difficulty: 2

## Hide and Seek

*Mimi Brodsky*

I looked in the house.  
I looked in the yard.  
I looked near the swing.  
I looked very hard.

I called your name  
And peeked near the stair,  
And searched the garage  
I looked everywhere!

So, come out! Come out! Wherever you are--  
I know you can't be very far.  
Come out! Come out! Let's start all over.  
It's no fun finding such a rover.

Aha! I see you! You can't fool me.  
There you are behind the tree.  
Oh, no! Don't say the game is ended.  
I think Hide and seek is splendid!

Degree of Difficulty: 1

Classical Christian Speech Meet

**Hiding***Dorothy Aldis*

I'm hiding, I'm hiding;  
And no one knows where,  
For all they can see is my  
Toes and my hair.  
And I just heard my father  
Say to my mother--  
"But, darling, he must be  
Somewhere or other;

Have you looked in the ink well?"  
And Mother said, "Where?"  
"In the INK well," said Father. But  
I was not there.  
Then "Wait!" cried my mother  
"I think that I see  
Him under the carpet." But  
It was not me.  
"Inside the mirror's  
A pretty good place,"  
Said Father and looked but saw  
Only his face.  
"We've hunted," sighed Mother,  
"As hard as we could  
And I AM so afraid that we've  
Lost him for good."

Then I laughed out aloud  
And I wiggled my toes  
And Father said--"Look, Dear  
I wonder if those  
Toes could be Benny's  
There are ten of them. See?"  
And they were so surprised to find  
Out it was me!  
Degree of Difficulty: 4



## **The Horse**

*William Shakespeare (from King Henry V)*

I will not change my horse with any that treads...  
When I bestride him, I soar, I am a hawk.  
He trots the air; the earth sings when he touches it.  
The basest horn of his hoof is more musical than the pipes of Hermes...  
He's the color of nutmeg and of the heat of the ginger...  
He is pure air and fire, and the dull elements  
Of earth and water never appear in him,  
But only in patient stillness while his rider mounts him...  
It is the prince of palfreys. His neigh is like  
The bidding of a monarch, and his countenance  
Enforces homage.

Degree of Difficulty: 4

Classical Christian Speech Meet

## **Kindness to Animals**

*From the Book of Virtues*

Little children, never give  
Pain to things that feel and live;  
Let the gentle robin come  
For the crumbs you save at home;  
As his meat you throw along  
He'll repay you with a song.  
Never hurt the timid hare  
Peeping from her green grass lair,  
Let her come and sport and play  
On the lawn at close of day.  
The little lark goes soaring high  
To the bright windows of the sky,  
Singing as if 'twere always spring,  
And fluttering on an untired wing--  
Oh! Let him sing his happy song,  
Nor do these gentle creatures wrong.

Degree of Difficulty: 2

Classical Christian Speech Meet

## **The Library**

*Barbara A. Huff*

It looks like any building  
When you pass it on the street,  
Made of stone and glass and marble,  
Made of iron and concrete.  
But once inside you can ride  
A camel or a train,  
Visit Rome, Siam, or Nome,  
Feel a hurricane,  
Meet a king, learn to sing,  
How to bake a pie,  
Go to sea, plant a tree,  
Find how airplanes fly,  
Train a horse, and of course  
Have all the dogs you'd like,  
See the moon, a sandy dune,  
Or catch a whopping pike.  
Everything that books can bring  
You'll find inside those walls.  
A world is there for you to share  
When adventure calls.

You cannot tell its magic  
By the way the building looks,  
But there's wonderment within it,  
The wonderment of books.

Degree of Difficulty: 3

Classical Christian Speech Meet

**Little White Lily***George MacDonald*

Little White Lily

Sat by a stone.

Drooping and waiting

Till the sun shone.

Little White Lily

Sunshine has fed;

Little White Lily

Is lifting her head.

Little White Lily

Said: "It is good

Little White Lily's

Clothing and food."

Little White Lily

Dressed like a bride!

Shining with whiteness,

And crowned beside!

Little White Lily

Drooping with pain,

Waiting and waiting

For the wet rain.

Little White Lily

Holdeth her cup;

Rain is fast falling

And filling it up.

Little White Lily

Said: "Good again,

When I am thirsty

To have the nice rain.

Now I am stronger,

Now I am cool;

He cannot burn me,

My veins are so full."

Little White Lily

Smells very sweet;

On her head sunshine,

Rain at her feet.

Thanks to the sunshine,

Thanks to the rain,

Little White Lily

Is happy again.

Degree of Difficulty: 4

## **Mice in the Hay**

*Leslie Norris*

Out of the lamplight  
Whispering worshipping  
The mice in the hay

Timid eye pearl-bright  
Whispering worshipping  
Whisking quick and away

They were there that night  
Whispering worshipping  
Smaller than snowflakes are

Quietly made their way  
Whispering worshipping  
Close to the manger

Yes, they were afraid  
Whispering worshipping  
As the journey was made

From a dark corner  
Whispering worshipping  
Scuttling together

But He smiles to see them  
Whispering worshipping  
There in the lamplight

Stretched out His hand to them  
They saw the baby king  
Hurried back out of sight  
Whispering worshipping

Degree of Difficulty: 4

## **Minnie and Winnie**

*Alfred Lord Tennyson*

Minnie and Wimmie  
Slept in a shell,  
Sleep little ladies!  
And they slept well.

Pink was the shell within,  
Silver without;  
Sounds the the great sea  
Wandered about.

Sleep little ladies!  
Wake not soon!  
Echo on echo  
Die to the moon.

Two bright stars  
Peep'd into the shell  
What are they dreaming of?  
Who can tell?

Started a green linnet  
Out of the croft;  
Wake, little ladies,  
The sun is aloft!

Degree of Difficulty: 3

**A Mortifying Mistake***Anna Maria Pratt*

I studied my tables over and over,  
And backward and forward too;  
But I couldn't remember six times nine,  
And I didn't know what to do,  
Till my sister told me to play with my  
Doll, and not to bother my head.  
"If you call her 'Fifty-four' for a  
While, you'll learn it by hear," she said  
So I took my favorite, Mary Ann  
(though I thought 'twas a dreadful shame  
To give such a perfectly lovely child  
Such a perfectly horrid name),  
And I called her my dear little "Fifty-four"  
A hundred time, till I knew  
The answer of six times nine as well  
As the answer to two times two.  
Next day Elizabeth Wiggleworth,  
Who always acts so proud,  
Said, "Six times nine is fifty-two,"  
And I nearly laughed aloud!  
But I wished I hadn't when teacher said,  
"Now, Dorothy, tell if you can,"  
For I thought of my doll, and 'sakes alive!--  
I answered "Mary Ann!"

Degree of Difficulty: 3

**My Dog***Marchette Chute*

His nose is short and scrubby;  
His ears hang rather low;  
And he always brings the stick back,  
No matter how far you throw.

He gets spanked rather often  
For things he shouldn't do  
Like lying-on-beds, and barking,  
And eating up shoes when they're new.

He always wants to be going  
Where he isn't supposed to go,  
He tracks up the house when it's snowing  
Oh, puppy, I love you so.

He sits and begs, he gives a paw,  
He is, as you can see,  
The finest dog you ever saw,  
And he belongs to me.

He follows everywhere I go  
And even when I swim.  
I laugh because he thinks, you know,  
That I belong to him.

But still no matter what we do  
We never have a fuss;  
And so I guess it must be true  
That we belong to us.

Degree of Difficulty: 3

Classical Christian Speech Meet



## **The Owl**

*Alfred Tennyson*

When cats run home and light is come,  
And dew is cold upon the ground,  
And the far-off stream is dumb,  
And the whirring sail goes round,  
And the whirring sail goes round;  
Alone and warming his five wits,  
The white owl in the belfry sits.  
When merry milkmaids click the latch,  
And rarely smells the new-mown hay,  
And the cock hath sun beneath the thatch  
Twice or thrice his roundelay,  
Twice or thrice his roundelay;  
Alone and warming his five wits,  
The white owl in the belfry sits.

Degree of Difficulty: 3

Classical Christian Speech Meet

## **The Seed Shop**

*Muriel Stuart*

Here in a quiet and dusty room they lie,  
Faded as crumbled stone or shifting sand,  
Forlorn as ashes, shrivelled, scentless, dry-  
Meadows and gardens running through my hand.

In this brown husk a dale of hawthorn dreams;  
A cedar in this narrow cell is thrust  
That will drink deeply of a century's streams;  
These lilies shall make summer on my dust.

Here in their safe and simple house of death,  
Sealed in their shells, a million roses leap;  
Here I can blow a garden with my breath,  
And in my hand a forest lies asleep.

Degree of Difficulty: 5

Classical Christian Speech Meet

**The Sermons We See***Edgar A. Guest*

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day,  
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely show the way,  
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear;  
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear;  
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,  
For to see the good in action is what everybody needs.  
I can soon learn how to do it if you'll let me see it done.  
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.  
And the lectures you deliver may be very wise and true;  
But I'd rather get my lesson by observing what you do.  
For I may misunderstand you and the high advice you give,  
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

Degree of Difficulty: 4

Classical Christian Speech Meet

**The Snail***Charles Lamb*

The frugal snail, with forecast of repose,  
Carries his house with him where'er he goes;  
Peeps out-- and if there comes a shower of rain,  
Retreats to his small domicile again,  
Touch but a tip of him, a horn--'tis well--  
He curls up in his sanctuary shell,  
He's his own landlord, his own tenant; stay  
Long as he will, he dreads no Quarter Day.  
Himself he boards and lodges; both invites  
And feasts himself; sleeps with himself o'nights.  
He spares the upholsterer trouble to procure  
Chattels; himself is his own furniture,  
And his sole riches. Whereso'er he roam--  
Knock when you will--he's sure to be at home.

Degree of Difficulty: 3

Classical Christian Speech Meet

**The Snake***Emily Dickinson*

A narrow fellow in the grass  
Occasionally rides;  
You may have met him, --did you not,  
His notice sudden is.

The grass divides as with a comb,  
A spotted shaft is seen;  
And then it closes at your feet  
And opens further on.

He likes a boggy acre,  
A floor to cool for corn,  
Yet when a child, and barefoot,  
I more than once, at morn,

Have passed, I thought, a whip-lash  
Unbraiding in the sun,--  
When, stooping to secure it,  
It wrinkled, and was gone.

Several of nature's people  
I know, and they know me;  
I feel for them a transport  
Of cordiality;

But never met this fellow,  
Attending or alone,  
Without a tighter breathing,  
And zero at the bone.

Degree of Difficulty: 5

## **Something Told the Wild Geese**

*Rachel Field*

Something told the wild geese  
It was time to go.  
Though the fields lay golden  
Something whispered--"Snow."

Leaves were green and stirring,  
Berries, luster-glossed,  
But beneath warm feathers  
Something cautioned--"Frost."

All the sagging orchards  
Steamed with amber spice,  
But each wild breast stiffened  
At remembered ice.

Something told the wild geese  
It was time to fly--  
Summer sun was on their wings,  
Winter in their cry.

Degree of Difficulty: 2

Classical Christian Speech Meet

## Spring

*Karla Kuskin*

I'm shouting  
I'm singing  
I'm swinging through the trees  
I'm winging sky high  
With the buzzing black bees.  
I'm the sun  
I'm the moon  
I'm the dew on the rose.  
I'm a rabbit  
Whose habit  
Is twitching his nose.  
I'm lively  
I'm lovely  
I'm kicking my heels.  
I'm crying, "Come dance"  
To the freshwater eels.  
I'm racing through meadows  
Without any coat  
I'm a gamboling lamb  
I'm a light leaping goat  
I'm a bud  
I'm a bloom  
I'm a dove on the wing.  
I'm running on rooftops  
And welcoming spring!

Degree of Difficulty: 1

**The Story of Flying Robert**

*From the German of Heinrich Hoffman*

When the rain comes tumbling down  
In the country or the town,  
All good little girls and boys  
Stay at home and mind their toys.  
Robert thought, "No, when it pours,  
It is better out of doors."  
Rain it did, and in a minute  
Bob was in it  
Here you see him, silly fellow,  
Underneath his red umbrella.

What a wind! Oh! How it whistles  
Through the trees and flowers and thistles!  
It had caught his red umbrella;  
Now look at him, silly fellow,  
Up he flies  
To the skies.  
No one heard his screams and cries,  
Through the clouds the rude wind bore him,  
And his hat flew on before him.  
Soon they got to such a height,  
They were nearly out of sight!  
And the hat went up so high,  
That it really touched the sky.

No one ever yet could tell  
Where they stopped or where they fell:  
Only, this one thing is plain,  
Bob was never seen again!

Degree of Difficulty: 4



**Three Words of Strength***Friedrich Von Schiller*

There are three lessons I would write--  
Three words, as with a burning pen,  
In tracing of eternal light,  
Upon the heart of men.

Have hope! Though clouds environ round,  
And gladness hides her face in scorn,  
Put thou shadow from thy brow,  
No night but hath its morn.

Have faith! Where'er thy bark is driven--  
The calm's disport, the tempest's mirth--  
Know this: God rules the hosts of heaven,  
The inhabitants of earth.

Have love! Not love alone for one,  
But man as man thy brother call,  
And scatter, like the circling sun,  
Thy charities on all.

Thus grave these lessons on thy soul,  
Hope, faith, and love; and thou shalt find  
Light when thou else wert blind.

Degree of Difficulty: 5

Classical Christian Speech Meet

**Tiger-Cat Tim***Edith H. Newlin*

Timothy Tim was a very small cat  
Who looked like a tiger the size of a rat.  
There were little black stripes running all over him,  
With just enough white on his feet for a trim  
On Tiger-Cat Tim.

Timothy Tim had a little pink tongue  
That was spoon, comb, and washcloth all made into one.  
He lapped up his milk, washed and combed all his fur,  
And then he sat down in the sunshine to purr.  
Full little Tim!

Timothy Tim had a queer little way  
Of always pretending at things in his play.  
He caught pretend mice in the grass and sand,  
And fought pretend cats when he played with your hand,  
Fierce little Tim!

He drank all his milk, and he grew and grew.  
He ate all his meat and his vegetables too.  
He grew very big and he grew very fat,  
And now he's a lazy old, sleepy old cat,  
Timothy Tim!

Degree of Difficulty: 4

**To a Snowflake***Francis Thompson*

What heart could have thought you? --  
Past our devisal  
(O filigree petal!)  
Fashioned so purely,  
Fragilely, surely,  
From what Paradisal  
Imagineless metal,  
Too costly for cost?  
Who hammered you, wrought you,  
From argentine vapor? --  
"God was my shaper.  
Passing surmised,  
He hammered. He wrought me,  
From curled silver vapor,  
To lust of His mind --  
Thou could'st not have thought me!  
So purely, so palely,  
Tinily, surely,  
Mightily, frailly,  
Insculped and embossed,  
With His hammer of wind,  
And His graver of frost."

Degree of Difficulty: 5

## **A Tragedy**

*Doris Webb*

This is the short, sweet sorrowful tale  
Of Jessica Jenkins Jones;  
She planted a packet of seeds with pride  
While her dog looked on with his head  
On the side  
And thought, "She's burying bones."

When Jessica left, he dug like mad  
In search of the luscious bones,  
So Jessica's garden it doesn't grow,  
And Jessica's dog is cross, and so  
Is Jessica Jenkins Jones.

Degree of Difficulty: 1

## **Try, Try Again**

*T. H. Palmer*

'Tis a lesson you should heed,  
If at first you don't succeed,  
Try, try again;

Then your courage should appear,  
For if you will persevere,  
You will conquer, never fear  
Try, try again;

Once or twice, though you should fail,  
If you would at last prevail,  
Try, try again;

If we strive, 'tis no disgrace  
Though we do not win the race;  
What should you do in the case?  
Try, try again

If you find your task is hard,  
Time will bring you your reward,  
Try, try again

All that other folks can do,  
Why, with patience, should not you?  
Only keep this rule in view:  
Try, try again.

Degree of Difficulty: 2

**The Tyger***William Blake*

Tyger! Tyger! Burning bright  
In the forests of the night  
What immortal hand or eye  
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies  
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?  
On what wings dare he aspire?  
What the hand dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder, and what art,  
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?  
And when thy heart began to beat,  
What dread hand? And what dread feet?

What the hammer? What the chain?  
In what furnace was thy brain?  
What the anvil? What dread grasp  
Dare its deadly terrors clasp?

When the stars threw down their spears,  
And watered heaven with their tears,  
Did he smile his work to see?  
Did he who made the lamb make thee?

Tyger! Tyger! Burning bright  
In the forests of the night,  
What immortal hand or eye  
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

Degree of Difficulty: 5

**Us Two***A.A. Milne*

Wherever I am, there's always Pooh,  
There's always Pooh and Me.  
Whatever I do, he wants to do  
"Where are you going today?" says Pooh:  
"Well, that's very odd 'cos I was too.  
Let's go together," says Pooh, says he.  
"Let's go together," says Pooh.

"What's twice eleven?" I said to Pooh.  
(Twice what? Said Pooh to Me.)  
"I think it ought to be twenty-two."  
"Just what I think myself," said Pooh,  
"It wasn't an easy sum to do,  
But that's what it is," said Pooh, said he.  
"That's what it is," said Pooh.

"Let's look for dragons," I said to Pooh.  
"Yes, let's," said Pooh to Me.  
We crossed the river and found a few  
"Yes, those are dragons all right," said Pooh.  
"As soon as I saw their beaks I knew.  
"That's what they are," said Pooh, said he.  
"That's what they are," said Pooh.

"Let's look for dragons," I said to Pooh.  
"That's right," said Pooh to Me.  
"I'm not afraid," I said to Pooh.  
And I held his paw and shouted "Shoo!  
Silly old dragons!" and off they flew.  
"I wasn't afraid," said Pooh, said he.  
"I'm never afraid with you."

So wherever I am, there's always Pooh,  
There's always Pooh and Me.  
"What would I do?" I said to Pooh,  
"If it wasn't for you," and Pooh said: "True  
It isn't much fun for one, but two  
Can stick together," says Pooh, says he.  
"That's how it is," says Pooh.

Degree of Difficulty: 5

**What Have We Done Today?***Nixon Waterman*

We shall do much in the years to come  
But what have we done today?  
We shall give our gold in a princely sum,  
But what did we give today?

We shall lift the heart and dry the tear,  
We shall plant a hope in the place of fear,  
We shall speak the words of love and cheer,  
But what did we speak today?

We shall be so kind in the afterwhile,  
But have we been today?  
We shall bring to each lonely life a smile  
But what have we brought today?

We shall give to truth a grander birth,  
And to steadfast faith a deeper worth,  
We shall feed the hungry souls of earth,  
But whom have we fed today?

We shall reap such joys in the by-and-by,  
But what have we sown today?  
We shall build us mansions in the sky,  
But what have we built today?

'Tis sweet in the idle dreams to bask;  
But here and now, do we our task?  
Yet, this is the thing our souls must ask,  
What have we done today?

Degree of Difficulty: 5



## The Wind

*Robert Louis Stevenson*

I saw you toss the kites on high  
And blow the birds about the sky;  
And all around I heard you pass,

Like ladies' skirts across the grass--  
O wind, a-blowing all day long  
O wind, that sings so loud a song!

I saw the different things you did.  
But always you yourself you hid.  
I felt you push, I heard you call,  
I could not see yourself at all

O wind, a-blowing all day long,  
O wind, that sings so loud a song!  
O you that are so strong and cold,  
O blower, are you young or old?

Are you a beast of field and tree  
Or just a stronger child than me?

O wind, a-blowing all day long,  
O wind, that sings so loud a song.

Degree of Difficulty: 3

**A Wrecker or a Builder***Edgar A. Guest*

I watched them tearing a building down,  
A gang of men in a busy town.  
With a ho-heave-ho and a lusty yell  
They swung a beam and the side wall fell.

I said to the foreman,  
“Are these men skilled,  
And the ones you’d hire  
If you had to build?”

He gave us a laugh and said, “No, indeed,  
Just common labor is all I need.  
I can easily wreck in a day or two  
What builders have taken a year to do.”

And I thought to myself,  
As I went my way,  
“Which of these roles  
Am I trying to play?

Am I shaping my life  
To a well-made plan  
Patiently doing the  
Best that I can?

Am I doing my work  
With the utmost care,  
Measuring life  
By the rule and square?

Or am I a wrecker  
Who wrecks the town  
Content with the labor  
Of tearing down?”

Degree of Difficulty: 4