

You Are My Teacher

by Robert Pottle

(Sing to the tune of “You Are My Sunshine.”)

You are my teacher. My favorite teacher.

You give me homework that takes all night.

And you ask questions that give me headaches.

It is rare that I get one right.

You are my teacher. My favorite teacher.

You give detentions to everyone.

And you make sure when we’re in your classroom
nobody ever has fun.

You are my teacher. My favorite teacher.

I’m glad that you have so many rules.

I hope that you’ll be my teacher next year.

And oh, by the way, April Fools’.

You Are My Student

by Robert Pottle

(Sing to the tune of “You Are My Sunshine.”)

You are my student. My favorite student.

You give me apples that have a worm.

And when I say to be still and quiet
you wiggle and giggle and squirm.

You are my student. My favorite student.

You never listen to what I say.

You don’t do homework. You don’t behave well.

You’re always in trouble all day.

You are my student. My favorite student.

I’m really glad you ignore my rules.

I wish that all kids would act like you do
and oh, by the way, April Fools’.

A Day Off for Sunshine

(Sing to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.”)

When it’s snowy and school is called off
We don’t complain, we don’t scoff
Sometimes we play in the snow all day
Then sometimes we ride and have fun on our sleigh
But most of the time we are stuck inside
It’s too cold and we’re bored and tired.

Tomorrow when I go back to school
I’ll suggest we make a new rule
Taking days off only when it snows
Is something now I truly oppose
It would be better, yes most divine
To take a day off just for the sunshine.

Mom, You Aren't Fourteen!

(Sing to the tune of "Do Your Ears Hang Low?")

Do you want to run away
When your mom thinks it's Broadway
And she tries to sing the songs
just to act like she belongs;
half the words she says are wrong
Oh, why is this song so long
Mom, you aren't fourteen!

Do you want to jump off your seat
When she tries to post a tweet
Even though she's having fun,
That won't be the word on the street;
Her behavior is so bad
Hopefully it's just a fad
Mom, you aren't fourteen!

Do you want to make a stink
When your mom dyes her hair pink
This is only getting worse
Now what will my classmates think;
When she drops me off at school,
Instead of being called a fool
They say, "Your mom is cool!"

He's Always on His Phone

(Sing to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat.")

Click, click, clickity-clack

I hear it then I moan

All day from my brother's room

He's always on his phone.

Ring, ring, ringity-ring

Who is calling now?

Someone else that I don't know

He's always on his phone.

Snap, snap, snappity-snap

He's taking "selfies" alone

He should have enough by now

He's always on his phone.

Buzz, buzz, buzzity-buzz

He's changing his ringtone

Who knew someone could be obsessed

He's always on his phone.

Raising My Hand

(Sing to the tune of “The Alphabet Song.”)

Teachers told me I must learn
to raise my hand and wait my turn
Always the same, not one time
Something so boring should be a crime
Maybe there’s another way
To be called on when I have something to say.

Shake my head or tap my nose
cross my eyes or wiggle my toes
stomp my feet or clap really loud
other things should be allowed
Any of these are more appealing
How can I change this silly routine?

I’ll suggest this, maybe it’ll stick
Changing this around should be really quick
I should tell the teacher my plan
Right away before I’m a madman
Excitedly, I raise my hand
And realize I ruined my whole plan!

Yankee Doodle Ditched the Pony

(Sing to the tune of “Yankee Doodle.”)

Yankee Doodle went to town,
Riding on a freight train
The click-clack noise was much too loud,
He thought he might go insane.

Yankee Doodle went to town,
Riding on a subway
He missed his stop, had to come back,
He couldn't find the right way.

Yankee Doodle went to town,
Riding on a scooter
He fell three times, got all banged up,
He'd rather ride the commuter.

Yankee Doodle went to town,
Riding on a skateboard
He crashed into an officer,
And now he has a record.

Yankee Doodle went to town,
Riding on a surfboard
On land it didn't work so well,
It might as well be cardboard.

Yankee Doodle went to town,
Riding on a big wheel
He left at noon, got nowhere soon,
He'll never get his next meal.

Yankee Doodle went to town,
Riding on a trolley
The bells, the dings were bothersome,
He didn't feel so jolly.

So...Yankee Doodle went to town,
Riding on his pony
He missed his pony after all,
He mounted then called out “Whoopee!”

Bedtimes Stink

(Sing to the tune of “Three Blind Mice.”)

Bedtimes stink
Bedtimes stink
I’m wide awake
Give me a break
Eight o’clock comes way too soon
Wasn’t it just half past noon?
The sun left and now it’s just the moon
My bedtime stinks.

Bedtimes stink
Bedtimes stink
My eyes won’t shut
I think I’m in a rut
I’ve already tried counting sheep
I’ve seen them jump, skip, curtsy, and leap
Why won’t the sheep just try and fall asleep?
My bedtime stinks.

Bedtimes stink
Bedtimes stink
Why must I yawn?
It’s almost dawn (or the night is almost gone?)
My eyes feel droopy, they start to close
Everything settles, my body slows
I think I might actually want to doze
My bedtime.....ZZZZZZ.

Directions: Get into four groups and recite your part when it's your turn. Practice repeatedly to improve smoothness.

I Went Fishing

Voice 1	Voice 2	Voice 3	Voice 4
I went fishing.	Took some bait.	Didn't go early,	Didn't go late.
Caught eight fishes	To put in my pail.	Seven were mackerel,	But the eighth was a whale.
The seven were easy	To put into the tin,	But that whale caused me trouble	Before I packed him in!
Took my catch home.	What did Mother say?	"Get those eight fish out of here—	We're having steak today!"

Directions: Get into three groups and recite your part when it's your turn. Boldfaced lines are read with all voices. Practice repeatedly to improve smoothness.

Merrily Merrily Sing

Voice 1	Voice 2	Voice 3
Improve the passing hours	For time is on the wing	Sip honey from the flowers
And merrily, merrily sing.		
All folly ends in sadness	For trouble it will bring	But wisdom leads to gladness
And merrily, merrily sing.		
Repine not if from labor	Your health and comfort spring	Work hard and help your neighbor
And merrily, merrily sing.		
Store not your mind with folly	To truth your homage bring	Do all the good you're able
And merrily, merrily sing.		

Directions: Get into three groups and recite your part when it's your turn. Boldfaced lines are read with all voices. Practice repeatedly to improve smoothness.

The Ants Go Marching

Voice 1	Voice 2	Voice 3
The ants go marching one by one,	Hurrah, hurrah.	
The ants go marching one by one,	Hurrah, hurrah.	
The ants go marching one by one,		The little one stops to suck his thumb.
And they all go marching down to the ground, to get out of the rain.		
The ants go marching two by two,	Hurrah, hurrah.	
The ants go marching two by two,	Hurrah, hurrah.	
The ants go marching two by two,		The little one stops to tie his shoe.
And they all go marching down to the ground, to get out of the rain.		
The ants go marching three by three,	Hurrah, hurrah.	
The ants go marching three by three,	Hurrah, hurrah.	
The ants go marching three by three,		The little one stops to climb a tree.
And they all go marching down to the ground, to get out of the rain.		
The ants go marching four by four,	Hurrah, hurrah.	
The ants go marching four by four,	Hurrah, hurrah.	
The ants go marching four by four,		The little one stops to shut the door.
And they all go marching down to the ground, to get out of the rain.		

The ants go marching five by five, The ants go marching five by five, The ants go marching five by five,	Hurrah, hurrah. Hurrah, hurrah.	The little one stops to take a dive.
And they all go marching down to the ground, to get out of the rain.		
The ants go marching six by six, The ants go marching six by six, The ants go marching six by six,	Hurrah, hurrah. Hurrah, hurrah.	The little one stops to pick up sticks.
And they all go marching down to the ground, to get out of the rain.		
The ants go marching seven by seven, The ants go marching seven by seven, The ants go marching seven by seven,	Hurrah, hurrah. Hurrah, hurrah.	The little one stops to pray to heaven.
And they all go marching down to the ground, to get out of the rain.		
The ants go marching eight by eight, The ants go marching eight by eight, The ants go marching eight by eight,	Hurrah, hurrah. Hurrah, hurrah.	The little one stops to roller skate.
And they all go marching down to the ground, to get out of the rain.		
The ants go marching nine by nine, The ants go marching nine by nine, The ants go marching nine by nine,	Hurrah, hurrah. Hurrah, hurrah.	The little one stops to check the time.
And they all go marching down to the ground, to get out of the rain.		
The ants go marching 10 by 10, The ants go marching 10 by 10, The ants go marching 10 by 10,	Hurrah, hurrah. Hurrah, hurrah.	The little one stops to shout, "The End."
And they all go marching down to the ground, to get out of the rain.		

Directions: Get into four groups and recite your part when it's your turn. Practice repeatedly to improve smoothness.

The Gettysburg Address

(excerpt)

by Abraham Lincoln, adapted by Melissa Cheesman Smith

Voice 1	Voice 2	Voice 3	Voice 4
we cannot dedicate	dedicate	we cannot consecrate	consecrate
we cannot hallow this ground The brave men,	hallow this ground living and dead	hallow this ground who struggled here far above	hallow this ground have consecrated it
to add or detract The world	our poor power will little note	nor long remember what we say here	what we say here
what we say here but	but	but	but
it can never forget It is for us	what they did here. the living, rather,	it can never forget to be dedicated here	what they did here. dedicated here
to the unfinished work	which they	who fought here	have thus
far so nobly advanced	far so nobly advanced	far so nobly advanced	far so nobly advanced

Directions: Read aloud the chant with expression, capturing its rhythm.

I Know Something

I know something,
But I won't tell.
Three little monkeys,
in a peanut shell.
One can read,
And one can dance,
And one has a hole,
in the seat of his pants!

Directions: Read aloud the chant with expression, capturing its rhythm.

Teddy Bear

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear,
Turn around.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear,
Touch the ground.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear,
Touch your shoe.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear,
That will do.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear,
Turn out the light.

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear,
Say good night!

Directions: Read aloud the chant with expression, capturing its rhythm.

Apples and Pears

Johnny gave me apples,

Johnny gave me pears.

Johnny gave me fifty cents

To kiss him on the stairs.

I gave him back his apples,

I gave him back his pears.

I gave him back his fifty cents

And kicked him down the stairs.

Directions: Read aloud the chant with expression, capturing its rhythm.

I Had a Little Puppy

I had a little puppy.
His name was Tiny Tim.
I put him in the bathtub,
To see if he could swim.
He drank up all the water.
He ate a bar of soap.
The next thing you know,
He had a bubble in his throat.
In came the doctor
In came the nurse
In came the lady
With the alligator purse.
Out went the doctor
Out went the nurse
Out went the lady
With the alligator purse.

Directions: Read aloud the chant with expression, capturing its rhythm.

Miss Mary Mack

Miss Mary Mack, Mack, Mack
All dressed in black, black, black
With silver buttons, buttons, buttons
All down her back, back, back.
She asked her mother, mother, mother,
For fifteen cents, cents, cents,
To see the elephant, elephant, elephant,
Jump over the fence, fence, fence.
He jumped so high, high, high.
He reached the sky, sky, sky,
And he never came back, back, back
Till the Fourth of July, lie, lie.

Tongue Twisters

Tongue Twister 1:

Try our fresh French-fried fly fritters.

Tongue Twister 2:

Six slippery snails slid slowly seaward.

Tongue Twister 3:

“Splish, splash, splosh” went the wig in the wash.

Tongue Twister 4:

Danny’s dog darts down the dirt road.

Tongue Twister 5:

Big bad bugs bit Bitsy’s back.

Tongue Twister 6:

A happy hippo hopped and hiccupped.

Tongue Twister 7:

Busy buzzing bumblebees buzz by.

Tongue Twister 8:

Little Lucy loves licking lollipops lazily.

Tongue Twister 9:

Tie twine to three tree twigs.

Tongue Twister 10:

Charlie chased chunky chipmunks cheerfully.

Tongue Twister 11:

Merry monkeys munch melons on Monday mornings.

Tongue Twister 12:

Skateboarders scream, skeletons scream, the school screams for ice cream!

Tongue Twister 13:

Robby the rabbit ran along the rugged rocky ridge.

Tongue Twister 14:

How can a clam cram in a clean cream can?

Tongue Twister 15:

Little Lillian lets lazy lizards lie along the lily pads.

Tongue Twister 16:

Puppies pranced proudly past the red ranch.

Tongue Twister 17:

Six sleek swans swam swiftly southwards.

Tongue Twister 18:

The instinct of an extinct insect stinks.

Tongue Twister 19:

Six sick hicks nick six slick bricks with picks and sticks.

Tongue Twister 20:

Fred fed Ted bread, and Ted fed Fred bread.

Tongue Twister 21:

Two tiny turtles tumbled toward the tall tulips.

Tongue Twister 22:

Wayne went to Wales to watch walruses.

Tongue Twister 23:

Curious caterpillars crawl carefully on cabbage leaves.

Tongue Twister 24:

A big black bear sat on a big black rug.

Tongue Twister 25:

Can you can a can as a canner can can a can?

Tongue Twister 26:

Five fine Florida florists fried fresh flat flounder fish fillets.

Tongue Twister 27:

I slit the sheet, the sheet I slit, and on the slitted sheet I sit.

Tongue Twister 28:

We surely shall see the sun shine soon.

Tongue Twister 29:

Imagine managing the manger at an imaginary menagerie.

Tongue Twister 30:

If Stu chews shoes, should Stu choose the shoes he chews?

Tongue Twister 31:

A cuckoo cookie cook called Cooper could cook cuckoo cookies.

Tongue Twister 32:

Betty Botter bought some butter, but she thought the butter's bitter.

Tongue Twister 33:

Which witch wishes to switch a witch wristwatch for a Swiss wristwatch?

Tongue Twister 34:

A three-toed tree toad loved a two-toed he-toad that lived in a too-tall tree.

Tongue Twister 35:

I have got a date at a quarter to eight; I'll see you at the gate, so don't be late.

Tongue Twister 36:

The skunk sat on a stump and thunk the stump stunk, but the stump thunk the skunk stunk.

Tongue Twister 37:

If a noisy noise annoys an onion, an annoying noisy noise annoys an onion more!

Tongue Twister 38:

**How much wood would a woodchuck chuck,
If a woodchuck could chuck wood?
He would chuck, he would, as much as he could,
And chuck as much wood as a woodchuck would
If a woodchuck could chuck wood.**

Tongue Twister 39:

**Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. Did Peter Piper pick a peck of pickled peppers?
If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers, where's the peck of pickled peppers
Peter Piper picked?**

Tongue Twister 40:

When a doctor doctors a doctor, does the doctor doing the doctoring doctor as the doctor being doctored wants to be doctored or does the doctor doing the doctoring doctor as she wants to doctor?

Kid Jokes

Kid Joke 1:

When do you go at red and stop at green?

When you're eating a watermelon.

Kid Joke 2:

Why can't your nose be 12 inches long?

Because then your nose would be a foot.

Kid Joke 3:

Why did the math book look so sad?

Because it had so many problems.

Kid Joke 4:

Why couldn't the pirate play cards?

Because he was sitting on the deck.

Kid Joke 5:

What do you call a bear with no teeth?

A gummy bear.

Kid Joke 6:

Why did the robber take a bath before she robbed the bank?

Because she wanted to make a clean getaway.

Kid Joke 7:

Why do you go to bed every night?

Because the bed won't come to you.

Kid Joke 8:

How did the barber win the race?

He knew a short cut.

Kid Joke 9:

What did one wall say to the other wall?

I'll meet you at the corner.

Kid Joke 10:

How do you get a mouse to smile?

Say cheese!

Kid Joke 11:

What stays on the ground but never gets dirty?

A shadow.

Kid Joke 12:

What do you call a pig that knows karate?

A pork chop.

Kid Joke 13:

Why did the cow cross the road?

To get to the udder side.

Kid Joke 14:

What did zero say to eight?

I like your belt.

Kid Joke 15:

What do you get when you cross a pig with a giraffe?

Bacon and legs.

Kid Joke 16:

What kind of music are balloons scared of?

Pop music.

Kid Joke 17:

What is the ideal date night for cows?

Dinner and a MOO-vie.

Kid Joke 18:

What goes up but never comes down?

Your age.

Kid Joke 19:

Why do golfers bring an extra pair of pants?

In case they get a hole in one.

Kid Joke 20:

Why didn't Cinderella make the basketball team?

She always ran away from the ball.

Kid Joke 21:

What do you give a sick lemon?

Lemon-"aid."

Kid Joke 22:

Why couldn't the pony sing himself to sleep with a lullaby?

Because he was a little hoarse.

Kid Joke 23:

How does the ocean say hello?

It waves.

Kid Joke 24:

What do you call an alligator in a vest?

An investigator.

Kid Joke 25:

What goes up and down but does not move?

Stairs.

Kid Joke 26:

What do you call a story about a broken pencil?

A pointless story.

Kid Joke 27:

What type of button does not unbutton?

A belly button.

Kid Joke 28:

What time is it when a lion walks into your bedroom?

Time to leave your bedroom.

Kid Joke 29:

What do you call cheese that is not yours?

Nacho cheese.

Kid Joke 30:

Why are ghosts bad liars?

Because you can see right through them.

Kid Joke 31:

What's worse than finding a worm in the apple you are eating?

Finding half a worm.

Kid Joke 32:

What sound do porcupines make when they kiss?

Ouch!

Kid Joke 33:

What object is king of the classroom?

The ruler.

Kid Joke 34:

Why did the football coach go to the bank?

To get his quarterback.

Kid Joke 35:

What did one candle say to the other candle?

I'm going out tonight.

Kid Joke 36:

Why was the boy sitting on his watch?

Because he wanted to be on time.

Kid Joke 37:

What do you get when you cross a snake and a pie?

A "pie"thon (python).

Kid Joke 38:

What kind of table can you eat?

A vegetable.

Kid Joke 39:

Why don't skeletons fight each other?

They don't have the guts.

Kid Joke 40:

Why didn't the sun go to college?

Because it already had a million degrees.

A Beautiful Morning

Directions: Read aloud the following paragraph in the voice of a person enjoying a beautiful morning.

I woke up this morning with the sun shining through my bedroom window. Oh my, I thought to myself, today is going to be a wonderful day. I dressed quickly and walked outside to my front stoop. Birds were chirping, squirrels were scurrying about, and neighbors were walking to the park. It seemed as if my street had come to life. The sun was warm, and the gentle breeze felt like nature patting my cheek. I wish all mornings could be like this.

What other voices could you use? Tired and grumpy? Confused?

Bonus: Write a description of a not-so-nice morning. Then read your description in a sad, hopeless voice.

Calling AirSpace Sneakers

Directions: Read aloud the following paragraph in the voice of a person complaining on the telephone to a shoe company that sent the wrong item.

Hello, is this AirSpace Sneakers? Last week I ordered your *Space Trackers* basketball shoes. I was really excited to receive them in the mail yesterday. Unfortunately, you sent me the wrong style. Can you believe it? Instead of *Space Trackers*, you sent me *Space Trekkers*! I already have a pair of *Space Trekkers*, and I don't want another one. What do I have to do to get my order corrected?

What other voices could you use to read this paragraph?
Upbeat and positive? Very tired?

Bonus: Write the response that the caller receives from AirSpace Sneakers. Then read the response in the voice of a representative from the company.

12-Hour Energy Bar Commercial

Directions: Read aloud the following paragraph in the voice of a person who is advertising energy bars on television or radio.

Do you feel tired most of the time? Do you feel like you do not have enough energy to do all the things that you need to do? Why not try our new product called 12-Hour Energy Bars? Eat just one of these delicious bars, and you will find yourself with more than enough energy to make it through the day. Our bars contain only healthy, completely natural ingredients. We guarantee that one 12-Hour Energy Bar each day will take away those tired feelings and give you the strength and energy you need.

What other voices could you use to read this paragraph? Disappointed that the bars didn't work? Totally wired because the bars worked too well?

Bonus: After having tried 12-Hour Energy Bars, write a note to the company about what you think of the product. Then read your note in a voice that reflects how you feel.

“Please, Can I Go to the Movies?”

Directions: Read aloud the following paragraph in the voice of a child who is pleading with his mother to allow him to go to a movie with a friend.

Mom, please, please, please. Please, can I go with Malik to the movies tonight? I promise I will get all my homework done before we go. I will get all my chores done, too—promise! I will even pay my own way to get in the theater. I just have to see *Return From Mars*! If I don’t, I’ll be the only person in my class who has not seen it. Please, Mommy, please.

What other character voices could you use to read this paragraph? The brother or sister of the child who is asking the mother to go to the movie? The brother or sister who is mocking how the child pleaded with the mother to a friend?

Bonus: Write the mother’s response to the child’s request. Then read the response in the voice of the mother.