

What to do today

IMPORTANT! Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and with any weblinks or use of the Internet required.

1. It's poem time!

Read and enjoy the monster poems *There are Gribbles* by Paul Cookson and *Next Door* by David Harmer.

- What other things might the child in *Next Door* have seen or heard their neighbours doing that would have made the child think they were flies? *Crawling on the window, buzzing round a fizzy drink, getting stuck in a spider's web, flying round a light bulb.*

2. Poetry terminology

Together, read the words and phrases on *What Do These Special Poetry Words Mean?* Look again at *It's Behind You*. Can you find examples of some of these terms in the poem? Look at *Next Door* and do the same.

3. Let's get ready to write

Re-read *There are Gribbles* and *Next Door*.

- Read through the categories on the *Poem Comparison Chart*
- Put a tick or a cross in each box.

4. Gribbling

'Gribbling' is one of the very unusual words in the poems.

- What do you think 'gribbling' might be? Is it a sound the monsters make? Is it a movement?
- On *A Gribble Gribbling*, draw a picture of a Gribble gribbling and write some sentences explaining what you think gribbling is.

Now try this Fun-Time Extra

- Solve the *Monster Words Anagrams* and then make your own for someone in the family to try and solve.

There are Gribbles

There are Gribbles in my attic
Gribbles on the stair
Gribbles in my wardrobe
Gribbles everywhere.

They gribble in the morning
They gribble late at night
They gribble when it's dark
They gribble when it's light.

Sometimes they gribble loudly
Sometimes they gribble quietly
Sometimes they gribble screaming
Sometimes they gribble nightly.

A Gribble's never seen
A Gribble's always heard
A Gribble is a Gribble
Is a Gribble is a word.

A Gribble's what they are
A Gribble's what they do
A Gribble gribbles out
Before it gribbles you!



Paul Cookson

It's Behind You! Monster Poems
by Paul Cookson and David Harmer

Next Door

My mum says
The woman next door
Isn't a fly.

A huge bluebottle
Rubbing six thin legs together
Crawling upside down on the ceiling
Sticking her long nose into the jam.

My mum says
That buzzing and whirring and humming
We hear each day through the wall
Is only a Hoover.

If that's true, why
Does her husband scuttle
Over the floor on eight hairy legs
And build thick webs
In the dark cupboard under the stairs?

And why does Stan
Her eldest son
Buy huge cans of Deadly Flykill?

When I next see her
Zooming over the compost and dustbins
I'll have to ask her
Just what's SWAT!



David Harmer

It's Behind You! Monster Poems
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What do these special poetry words mean?

verses

The separate sections or 'chunks' that a poem's lines are broken up into. Verses are a bit like paragraphs in normal writing. Verses have a gap between them.

rhyming words

Lots of poems have rhyming words in them. Rhyming words are words that end in the same sound. *See, be* and *tea* rhyme because they all end with the same sound. *Cup, lip* and *drink* do not so we say they do not rhyme.

rhythm

We say a poem has rhythm when there is a sing-song quality to the way the way the poem sounds when you read it out loud. It makes the poem sound a bit like a chant or song.

repetition

Repetition is when a word or a group of words get used again and again in a poem.

free verse

When a poem does not contain rhyming words, does not have a very strong rhythm and does not have lots of repetition it is called free verse. Free verse sounds more like normal speaking.

Poem Comparison Chart

	<i>Next Door</i>	<i>There are Gribbles</i>
Is about monsters		
Is humorous		
Is scary		
Is split up into verses		
Is an example of free verse		
Contains rhyming words		
Has a strong rhythm		
Has repetition in it		
Contains very unusual or made-up words		

A Gobble Gribbling

A writing area with a colorful puzzle-piece border. The border consists of interlocking puzzle pieces in shades of blue, yellow, red, and grey. The writing area is a large rectangle with horizontal lines, divided into eight rows for text entry.

Monster Word Anagrams

We say that *swlac* is an **anagram** of *claws* because *swlac* has all the letters that make claws but the letters have been jumbled up and put in the wrong order.

Can you work out what these monster body part word anagrams mean?

ruf _____

httee _____

seey _____

dhae _____

sone _____

ares _____

Make up some monster anagrams of your own to show someone at home.
Can they work out what the word really is?

_____ = _____

_____ = _____

_____ = _____

_____ = _____

_____ = _____

_____ = _____