

Narrative poetry

The Tale of Custard the Dragon – Ogden Nash

MONDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2021

L1: Can I read and understand a narrative poem?

STEPS TO SUCCESS

- READ THE POEM (WE THINK POEMS ARE BEST READ ALOUD)
- ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POEM
- FIND THE RHYMING WORDS

The Tale of Custard the Dragon

- ▶ You are going to read a narrative poem (a poem that tells a story) about a pet dragon who is teased for being a coward but one day proves he is the bravest creature of all.
- ▶ This poem was written by Ogden Nash. He was an American poet, who loved word play.
- ▶ After reading, answer the questions about the poem.
- ▶ Then we are going to use the rhyming lens and have a look at the structure of the poem and learn about light verse.

The Tale of Custard the Dragon

- ▶ You can use the speak button  on PowerPoint to read the poem for you. Instructions are on the last two slides.
- ▶ We think poems are enjoyed best when read aloud.

The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Belinda lived in a little white house,
With a little black kitten and a little grey mouse,
And a little yellow dog and a little red wagon,
And a realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

Now the name of the little black kitten was Ink
And the little grey mouse, she called her Blink,
And the little yellow dog was sharp as Mustard,
But the dragon was a coward, and she called him
Custard.

Custard the dragon had big sharp teeth,
And spikes on top of him and scales underneath,
Mouth like a fireplace, chimney for a nose,
And realio, trulio daggers on his toes.

Belinda was as brave as a barrellful of bears,
And Ink and Blink chased lions down the stairs,
Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage,
But Custard cried for a nice safe cage.

Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful,
Ink, Blink and Mustard, they rudely called him
Percival,
They all sat laughing in the little red wagon
At the realio, trulio, cowardly dragon.

Belinda giggled till she shook the house,
And Blink said Weeek!, which is giggling for a mouse,
Ink and Mustard rudely asked his age,
When Custard cried for a nice safe cage.

Suddenly, suddenly they heard a nasty sound,
And Mustard growled, and they all looked around.
Meowch! cried Ink, and Ooh! cried Belinda,
For there was a pirate, climbing in the winda.

Pistol in his left hand, pistol in his right,
And he held in his teeth a cutlass bright;
His beard was black, one leg was wood.
It was clear that the pirate meant no good.

The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Belinda paled, and she cried Help! Help!
But Mustard fled with a terrified yelp,
Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household,
And little mouse Blink strategically mouseholed.

But up jumped Custard, snorting like an engine,
Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon,
With a clatter and a clank and a jangling squirm
He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm.

The pirate gaped at Belinda's dragon,
And gulped some grog from his pocked flagon,
He fired two bullets, but they didn't hit,
And Custard gobbled him, every bit.

Belinda embraced him, Mustard licked him;
No one mourned for his pirate victim.
Ink and Blink in glee did gyrate
Around the dragon that ate the pyrate.

But presently up spoke little dog Mustard,
I'd been twice as brave if I hadn't been flustered.
And up spoke Ink and up spoke Blink,
We'd have been three times as brave, we think,
And Custard said, I quite agree
That everybody is braver than me.

Belinda still lives in her little white house,
With her little black kitten and her little grey mouse,
And her little yellow dog and her little red wagon,
And her realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

Belinda is as brave as a barrellful of bears,
And Ink and Blink chase lions down the stairs,
Mustard is as brave as a tiger in a rage,
But Custard keeps crying for a nice safe cage.

Try to answer these questions about the poem

1. Why do you think Belinda named the Kitten 'Ink'?
2. How does the poet describe what Custard looks like?
3. What do you think the poet means by 'Mouth like a fireplace, chimney for a nose'?
4. How is each character described as brave?
5. 'Belinda paled'. What does that mean?
6. Find and copy the simile that shows Custard is going to eat the pirate.
7. *'And Custard said, I quite agree
That everybody is braver than me.'*

Why does Custard think this after saving everyone from the Pirate?

Answers

1. The kitten's fur is black, which is the usual colour of pen ink.
2. He has big sharp teeth, spikes on his back and scales on his stomach, he breathes fire, snorts smoke and has very sharp claws.
3. Because his mouth is full of flames like a fireplace.
4. Belinda – barrel full of bears; Ink and Blink chase lions down the stairs; Mustard – a tiger in a rage.
5. For example, the blood has gone from her face because she is scared.
6. (He went for the pirate) like a robin at a worm
7. For example, he might feel happy that he has saved his friends and that they are so grateful. However, he's still scared of the outside world, so he still doesn't have much confidence.

Rhyme



- ▶ The poem has got 15 verses or stanzas.
- ▶ Each stanza has four lines, except one which has six.
- ▶ Let's look at the first stanza. Can you spot the rhyming words?

Belinda lived in a little white house,
With a little black kitten and a little grey mouse,
And a little yellow dog and a little red wagon,
And a realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

Rhyme



Belinda lived in a little white house,
With a little black kitten and a little grey mouse,
And a little yellow dog and a little red wagon,
And a realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

- ▶ House and mouse rhyme, so do wagon and dragon
- ▶ We say the rhyming pattern is AA-BB because the first two lines rhyme and the last two lines rhyme as well.

Rhyme



Re-read the poem.

List all the rhyming words in the poem:

Answers on the next slide

Rhyme



List all the rhyming words in the poem:

Ink - Blink

Mustard - Custard

teeth - underneath

nose - toes

bears - stairs

rage - cage

unmerciful - Percival

age - cage

sound - around

Belinda - winda

right - bright

wood - good

help - yelp

household - mouseholed

engine - dungeon

squirm - worm

dragon - flagon

hit - bit

him - victim

gyrate - pirate

Mustard - flustered

Blink - think

agree - me

Light verse

- ▶ The poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' is a special type of rhyming poem.
- ▶ It is called light verse, because Ogden Nash has used some made-up words.
- ▶ For example, 'a realio, trulio, little pet dragon'. Realio and trulio are not real words.
- ▶ Can you find more examples of made-up words in the poem?

Answers on the next slide

Light verse

realio, trulio

weeek, meowch

winda

Mouseholed

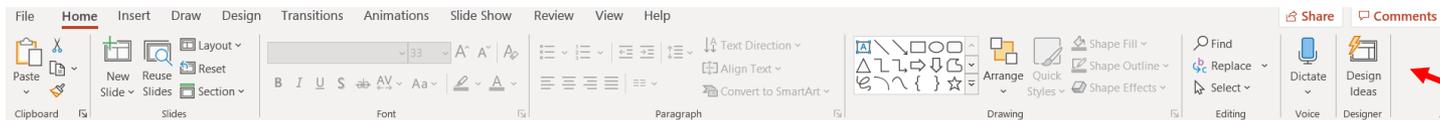
pyrate

- ▶ What could these words all mean?
- ▶ Why do you think he has used made-up words?

The Tale of Custard the Dragon

- ▶ You have read a narrative poem
- ▶ You have answered questions about the poem
- ▶ You have found rhyming words
- ▶ You can explain what light verse is

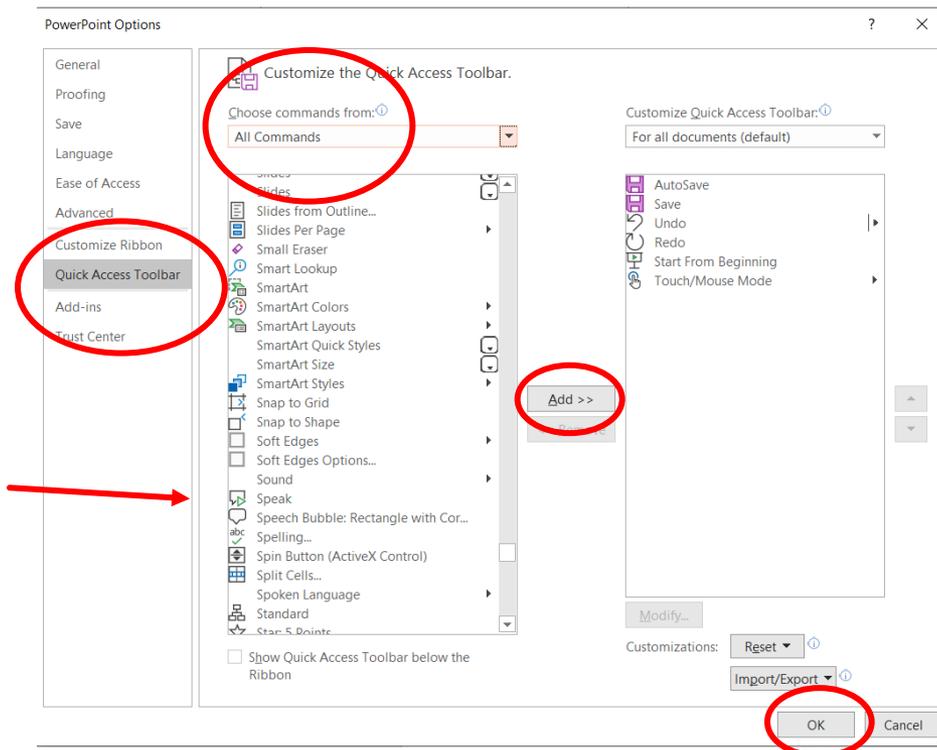
Instructions for using the speak button in PowerPoint (1)



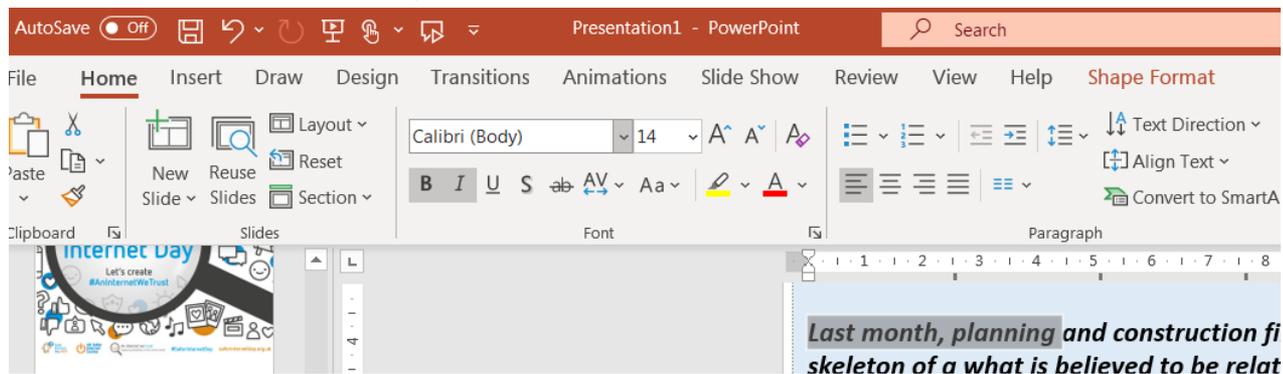
Right click here
Choose: customise the ribbon

Select:

- Quick Access Toolbar
- All Commands
- Scroll down and select 'Speak'
- Click on Add>>
- Click OK



Instructions for using the speak button in PowerPoint (2)



- Highlight the text you want PowerPoint to read.
- Click on the Speak symbol.