

Narrative poetry

# The Tale of Custard the Dragon – Ogden Nash

TUESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2021



# LI: Can I read and understand a narrative poem?

## STEPS TO SUCCESS

- READ THE POEM (WE THINK POEMS ARE BEST READ ALOUD)
- IDENTIFY WHAT EACH STANZA OR SET OF STANZAS ARE ABOUT
- MATCH THE SHAPES TO THE CORRECT STANZA

# The Tale of Custard the Dragon

- ▶ Yesterday we read the poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' by Ogden Nash.
- ▶ The poem has 15 stanzas or verses and each stanza (except one) has got four lines.
- ▶ We found rhyming words and noticed the rhyming pattern is AA-BB
- ▶ We learned the poem is a narrative poem, it tells a story.
- ▶ The poet uses light verse. Light verse is word play with made-up words

# Shape of the poem

- ▶ Read the poem again.
- ▶ Can you match the shapes to the verses and work out what each verse is about? Some shapes are used more than once.
- ▶ Write down the number of the verse and draw the picture of the shape that goes with it.



Describe  
Custard



Setting and  
characters



Describe  
the pirate



Teasing and  
bullying



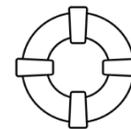
Acting  
courageously



Brave in  
dreams



Celebrating  
victory



Showing true  
colours



Being brave

# Find the shape

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.

# Find the shape

- 5 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.
- 6 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.
- 7 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.
- 8 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.

# Find the shape

9 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.

10 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.

11 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.

12 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.

# Find the shape

- 13 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.
- 14 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.
- 15 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.

# Find the shape - answers

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,  
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Belinda was as brave as a barrelful of bears,  
And Ink and Blink chased lions down the stairs,  
Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage,  
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These two stanzas describe the setting and characters



Custard is described in detail.



This stanza shows how all the characters are brave, except Custard.

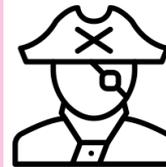
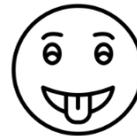
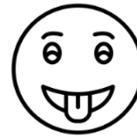
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These two stanzas show how the characters are teasing and bullying Custard for being a coward.

The pirate is introduced and described

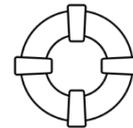
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Showing true colours: everyone is scared, not brave



Custard shows courage and comes to the rescue



Everyone is celebrating victory

# Find the shape - answers

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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.



Mustard, Blink and Ink say they would have been brave, but... showing they are only brave in their dreams.



Describe the setting and characters



This stanza shows how all the characters are brave, except Custard.

# In this lesson

- ▶ You have identified what each verse or stanza is about.
- ▶ How did you do?