

Approach: One to one
Focus: Accuracy of oral reading
Resources: Poem card

Questions / instructions:

In this activity you are going to have a go at reading a nonsense poem. Nonsense poems use nonsense words – words that are made up so that they are fun to say and listen to. They let you use your imagination. This poem is one like that.

Show poem card to student.

The nonsense words get more complicated as the poem goes on. You can start at the beginning and see how many of the coloured verses you can read. You don't have to read all of them – but read as many as you can. Before you read it to me, have a few moments to read it quietly to yourself.

Allow a short period of time.

Now read as much of the poem as you can. Try to read it slowly and clearly.

Student reads.

I wonder if you liked the nonsense poem. What did you think of it?

Text:

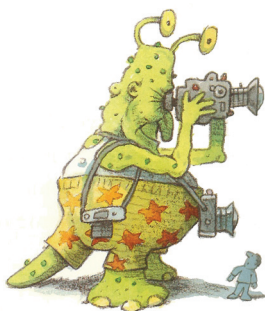
If you see an ep un
Let it have an uf et
If you meet an id ob
You will see it has an om ag
If you see a jof nug
Let it have a bem dap
If you meet a fim hod
You will see it has a mip mub.
If you see a squeb stram
Let it have a sleam craid
If you meet a twuit proup
You will see it has a sleam stroid
If you see any of those squib throsts, spluds, splims or thromps,
Tell them to scrat!
For if you don't, your sharmint
will get a phurdest whorbunt
Which will make your chirpust
whurdent!



Decoded accurately:

	% responses	
	y4	y8
ep	64	74
un	78	91
uf	60	70
et	67	82
id	58	76
ob	75	91
om	74	83
ag	67	81
jof	74	86
nug	75	89
bem	56	75
dap	60	79
fim	76	89
hod	73	88
mip	71	83
mub	65	80
squeb	33	54
stram	58	84
sleam	62	82
craid	43	70
twuit	17	23
proup	24	34
sleam	64	80
stroid	31	63

	% responses	
	y4	y8
squib	52	75
throsts	34	66
spluds	54	76
splims	48	71
thromps	43	64
scrat	65	85
shar	45	68
mint	67	84
phur	36	53
dest	55	76
whor	52	70
bunt	55	74
chir	53	78
pust	59	77
whur	52	66
dent	65	83
Total score:	36–40	10
	31–35	15
	26–30	22
	21–25	12
	16–20	18
	11–15	8
	0–10	15



Commentary:

This task was designed to test decoding skills using nonsense (invented) words. Twenty-five percent of year 4 students and 60 percent of year 8 students decoded at least three-quarters of the “words” correctly.