

TAPESCRIPT

Narrator: Listening Test

A Poem – What Would Happen If ... (Basic Level)

Section 1

Listen to a teacher introducing a poem reading class to some students. The poem they will read is called “What Would Happen If...?”

The recording will be played twice. Do as much as you can the first time and answer all the questions the second time.

You now have 30 seconds to read the questions.

[30 secs music]

{Teacher: Okay, class, now you all remember the “Durham Poets’ Society” who were here last week from England. You did some really interesting activities with poetry, and you all wrote some really good poems.

As you know, we asked Paul and Nick from the “Durham Poets’ Society” to write us a poem each called “What Would Happen If...?”

The first thing we’re going to do is read Paul’s poem. Before we read his poem, we will think about the rhymes in that poem. Can anybody tell me what a rhyme is, Michael?

Michael: Two words that sound similar.

Teacher: Yes, Michael. Do the beginnings of the word have to sound similar, like “tree” and “tray”, or do the ends of the words have to sound similar, like “tray” and “play”?

Michael: The ends.

Teacher: That’s right! Can anybody give me another example?...Ted?

Ted: “boy” and “toy”?

Teacher: Yes, Ted. Michael, any others?

Michael: Hmmmm...“brother” and “sister”?

Teacher: That’s a good one. What about another rhyme, Sophie?

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Sophie: Mmm... “fried” and “lied”.

Teacher: Excellent! Right, here is the poem. Okay you’ve had a few minutes to read and practise. Who would like to go first? Right, Ted. Thank you. Come on out to the front.

Narrator: Listen to Ted read the poem and answer the questions.

Ted: WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF...? By Paul Greenfield

What would happen if we all couldn't speak, if a dog couldn't bark and a mouse couldn't squeak?

[5 second pause]

How would we cheer when we're happy with joy, and how would we jeer when we're cross and annoyed?

How would we say things like 'Hi' and 'Goodbye', and how would we ask for ice cream and pie?

[5 second pause]

How would we sing our favourite song, and how would we say what's right and what's wrong?

What would we name the colours that we've seen, if the sea can't be 'blue' and the grass can't be 'green'?

[5 second pause]

Would we all have a name if people couldn't say it? How would we call our friends who we play with?

We couldn't say things like 'goodnight' and 'good morning', without conversation the world would be boring.

[5 second pause]

That's what would happen if we all couldn't speak, if a dog couldn't bark and a mouse couldn't squeak.

The power of speech can be used when we teach. . . and everybody should learn the beauty of speech!!!

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Teacher: Well, that was great, Ted, well done. Give him a clap everyone.

[classroom applause and fade out]}

Narrator: Now listen to the recording again.

[repeat {} without the pause]

You have 30 seconds to check your answers.

[30 secs music]

This is the end of Section 1.