

Narrative Poems



Read and Listen to this narrative poem.

Please Mrs Butler

Please Mrs Butler
This boy Derek Drew
Keeps copying my work, Miss.
What shall I do?

Go and sit in the hall, dear.
Go and sit in the sink.
Take your books on the roof, my lamb.
Do whatever you think.

Please Mrs Butler
This boy Derek Drew
Keeps taking my rubber, Miss.
What shall I do?

Keep it in your hand, dear.
Hide it up your vest.
Swallow it if you like, love.
Do what you think best.

Please Mrs Butler
This boy Derek Drew
Keeps calling me rude names, Miss.
What shall I do?

Lock yourself in the cupboard, dear.
Run away to sea.
Do whatever you can, my flower.
But don't ask me!

By Allan Ahlberg

To listen to the author reading this poem go to:

- <https://childrens.poetryarchive.org/poem/please-mrs-butler/>

Narrative poems are poems that tell a story. They don't have to be long or complicated. A short narrative poem could describe something that happened.

Narrative poems are one of the oldest forms of poetry. They were used in ancient times to pass down important stories. Many people did not know how to read and write, so to ensure that stories important to the culture were remembered and passed down through the generations, stories were told rhythmically, with repetition and rhyme.

Here is an example of a classic narrative poem you might know.

- <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/the-listeners-by-walter-de-la-mare>

A.A. Milne wrote lots of fun narrative poems, have a look at this one about a trip to see Buckingham Palace.

- <https://allpoetry.com/Buckingham-Palace>

Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes are also examples of a narrative poem.

Read this version of Red Riding Hood by Roald Dahl and then watch the animated version from the youtube link below.

- http://monologues.co.uk/Childrens_Favourites/Red_Riding_Hood.htm
- <https://youtu.be/PKxm-olP4jc>



Now you have read Please Mrs Butler can you answer these questions?

1. List two things that Derek Drew has done.

- a)
- b)
- c)

2. Write down two lines that are repeated in the poem.

- a)
- b)

3. What names does Mrs Butler call the child?

- a)
- b)
- c)

4. What three suggestions does the teacher have for the child when his rubber is being taken?

- a)
- b)
- c)

5. I think the teacher, Mrs Butler is....

6. Why do you think the teacher says 'don't ask me!' at the end of the poem?

7. Do you like this poem?

I like/don't like this poem because _____

Answers

1. a) copying work
 b) keeps taking my rubber
 c) calling me rude names

2. a) Please Mrs Butler, This boy Derek Drew
 b) What shall I do?

3. a) Dear
 b) my lamb
 c) love
 d) my flower

4. a) keep it in your hand
 b) hide it up your vest
 c) swallow it



Why not try and write a narrative poem yourself?

Use the Brainstorm page to help you plan your poem.

- Remember it can be long or short.
- It does not have to rhyme.
- Why not write about a real event.



Narrative Poem Brainstorm Page



Setting

Problem and Solution

Characters



Plot

Interesting Words