

When I Grow Up

Poem

Get Going!	✧ Make groups of four and ask them to discuss what they would like to become when they grow up.
Read and Enjoy	<p>✧ This delightful little poem by Jack Prelutsky talks about a child's dreams, about his ambitions. It is a poem about possibilities. It takes a lot of practice, many hit-and-miss efforts and trials, before we decide what we would like best to do. This poem is written in four stanzas and the rhyme scheme is a a b b. In this poem, spoken through a child, the poet talks about all the things he would like to do and become when he is older.</p> <p>✧ In the first stanza the child/poet says he thinks he would like to be a pilot flying rockets through the sky. Then his mind swings to having an orchard where he will grow apple trees or then again he may be someone who finds a way to cure some disease.</p> <p>✧ Then his mind switches over to other ambitions in the second stanza. He may stand for elections to become the President of the country. Or he may design a robot or invent some "unique computerised machines or miniature submarines".</p> <p>✧ But he is still a child and his mind thinks of many more possibilities before he grows up. On the third stanza, he thinks he would like to be "the captain of a ship at sea", or perhaps an architect. He thinks of something more lighthearted and wishes sometimes to be a clown or perhaps a cook. Then he thinks he would like to be "the writer of a famous book."</p> <p>✧ The last stanza shows us that it is not just fame that the child/poet is looking for. He wants to do something that he loves and enjoys. He says that it is possible he might become someone who teaches "a chimpanzee the art of speech", which is a very funny and delightful ambition to have. But after all this thinking, he says that he is still unsure. "What I'll really be, I'll bet," says the child/poet, "I've not begun to think of yet". He might not become any of the dozens of things he has thought of, but something quite different, after all.</p>
Read and Understand	✧ Exercises A, B, C and D: Read and explain the questions, clarifying doubts, if any. Ask the students to answer them on their own. Check and assess their work individually.

<p>✧ Exercise A: Read and explain the question. Then ask the students to write the answer on their own. Check and assess their work individually.</p>	<p>Think and Answer</p>
<p>✧ Explain, using the given instructions and examples, what is the rhyme and rhythm used in the poem. Use your own examples to illustrate; you can use other poems in this textbook or any other. For example:</p> <p>(i) “You are old, Father William, And your hair has become very white; And yet you incessantly stand on your head. Do you think at your age it is right?” [Lewis Carroll]</p> <p>(ii) Now I lay me down to sleep - I pray the Lord my soul to keep - Guard me through the starry night, And wake me with the morning light! [a child’s prayer]</p> <p>✧ In the first poem the rhyme scheme is a b c b; in the second one it is a a b b.]</p> <p>✧ Exercises A and B: This can be discussed in class and then answered by the students. Announce the answers aloud and let the students check their own answers.</p>	<p>Appreciating the Poem</p>
<p>✧ Exercise A: Explain the exercise and ask the students to write the answers/paragraph on their own. It is advisable to check and assess their work on their own.</p>	<p>Write Well</p>
<p>✧ Exercise A: This can be done by the students on their own either in class or at home. Display in class.</p>	<p>AIL Activity</p>