

# Upside Down

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- The poem tells us about how, in our childhood, we look at and understand things in our own sweet and innocent ways. It highlights the innocence of children.
- It also tells us how attentive children can be in their early years. The poet is fascinated by the way the beetle is trying to climb a wall.
- She is amazed at how effortlessly the beetle can crawl upside down and climb, but in spite of trying so hard, she has not been able to do it.
- Keeping humour and rhythm in mind, recite the poem in front of the students.
- Ask them to put up questions about the poem based on what they understand.
- **Outcome:** Tell the students about new words like creature, crawl, ceiling and practice. Ask them to look up these words in the dictionary.
- Ask them to write a similar poem or a short couplet on any animal or insect or its peculiar habit.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This is a delightful poem by Aileen Fisher, a well-known American writer of children's literature. The poet, as a little girl, observes the world from a child's point of view. Children can be very observant.</li> <li>➤ 1st stanza: The poet, as a little girl, sees a beetle crawling upside down on the ceiling and is fascinated by it. She wonders at the beetle's ability to walk upside down on the ceiling as well as on flat ground.</li> <li>➤ 2nd stanza: She watches the beetle and similar creatures walk across ceilings and even climb walls effortlessly. They don't need to practise or try it out; it seems to come naturally to them.</li> <li>➤ 3rd stanza: She wishes to do the same. However, she finds that she can at best only manage to stand on her head, and even that requires a great deal of practice. Despite practising for more than a year, she cannot copy what these creatures do with ease.</li> <li>➤ Read aloud the poem, keeping its humour and rhythm in mind.</li> <li>➤ Ask the students to follow. They can memorise the poem and recite it – perhaps in three groups.</li> <li>➤ Check them where required.</li> </ul>	<b>Read and Enjoy</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Read and explain Exercises A to C. Based on the details given in the above explanation of the poem, guide the students to answer the questions, orally first and then in writing.</li> <li>➤ Exercises B &amp; C: These can be done by the students.</li> </ul>	<b>Read and Understand</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Exercise A: Explain what Compound words are – They are where two words are combined to form a new word. Do the exercise orally and then announce the answers. The students can check each other's work.</li> </ul>	<b>Word Power</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exercise B: Ask the students to use their dictionaries to find the meanings of the words and write them down. Announce the meanings and their partners can check.</li> </ul>
<b>Appreciate the Poem</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exercises A &amp; B: These can be done by the students on their own. Announce answers and the students can check their work on their own.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Work/AIL Activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exercise A: The students can do this on their own.</li> </ul>