

Your reading activity this week requires you to read a poem. Just like the poem that we looked at in school, it is not always clear what the poem is about at first. It may be helpful to identify words that you are unsure of first and try and define these like we did with 'From a Railway Carriage'. Once you have done this, you should have an increased understanding of the poem and should find the questions easier to answer.

It Couldn't Be Done

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,
But he with a chuckle replied
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;
At least no one ever has done it;"
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure;
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing
That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.

Edgar A. Guest



Monday

Read through the poem today and write down any words that you are unsure of. Have a go at creating your own definition of the word to help you to understand the text better and put your word back into the poem and read through it again.

Tuesday

- 1) Who is the poet who produced 'It Couldn't Be Done'?
- 2) Is the poem about a man or a woman? How do you know this?
- 3) Find and **copy** two things that he took off before 'he'd begun it' (line 11).
- 4) Which word means the same as 'prophesy' (line 18)?
a) Predict b) sing c) carry

Wednesday

- 5) Look at line 7 in each verse. Find and copy the words which show what he did as 'he tacked the thing'.
- 6) What is the meaning of the phrase 'so he buckled right in' (line 5)?
a) Fastened a strap b) set to work c) fell over
- 7) Look at verse 1. Give two reasons how you know that 'he' was happy. Use evidence from the text.
- 8) What do you think that the 'thing' is that 'he' is trying to do? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Thursday

- 9) Look at verse 3. Find and **copy** the repeated word which shows how many people 'tell you it cannot be done'.
- 10) Line 14 says 'without any doubting or quiddit'. What do you think 'quiddit' means in this sentence?
a) Joy that it is being done b) worry about whether it can be done
- 11) How does the beginning of each verse in the poem differ in mood to the end of each verse? What are the similarities and differences you notice?
- 12) 'The dangers that wait to assail you' (line 20) What do you think the word 'assail' means?
a) Attack b) trick c) stick

Friday

- 13) What is the main idea of the first verse (stanza)?
- 14) Find and copy a phrase from verse 2 which shows you that 'he' is proud and confident.
- 15) What advice is given to help you to tackle the 'thing'? (Clue- have a look in verse 3)
- 16) What message is the author trying to tell his audience through this poem? Give at least two pieces of evidence from the text to support your answer.

Remember you need to read each day so don't forget to log onto Epic! As there are lots of books to choose from and you can also answer some quiz questions when you complete the book. If you do read a book and have finished all of your reading activities, write a book review of the book that you have read.

Challenge: can you learn the poem by heart and perform it for your family? Or could you have a go at writing your own poem about something that you have done/learnt to do?