

What to do today

IMPORTANT Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and any weblinks or use of internet.

1. Read a poem

- Read *If I were a king*. It's a poem that uses the subjunctive.
- Highlight some examples of the subjunctive in the poem.
- What do you like about the poem? Is there anything that you dislike about it? Can you spot any patterns? Which is your favourite verse?

2. Learn the poem by heart

- Read *Top Tips for Learning a Poem by heart*.
- Try learning at least three verses by heart. Challenge yourself to learn the whole poem.

3. Now for some writing

- Make up some extra verses for the poem.
- Choose new countries and make up lines that rhyme with them. Use *Country names* if that helps. Try to come up with at least six new ideas.
- Choose your best ideas and write your poem out carefully.

Try the Fun-Time Extras

- Make a recording or film of you performing your poem or of you reciting the original off by heart. Send it to somebody else.
- Make illustrations to accompany your poem or the original.
- Find out more poems by AA Milne. You may know some already. You could start looking here:

<https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poet/aa-milne/poems/>

If I Were King

By A. A. Milne

I often wish I were a King,
And then I could do anything.

If only I were King of Spain,
I'd take my hat off in the rain.

If only I were King of France,
I wouldn't brush my hair for aunts.

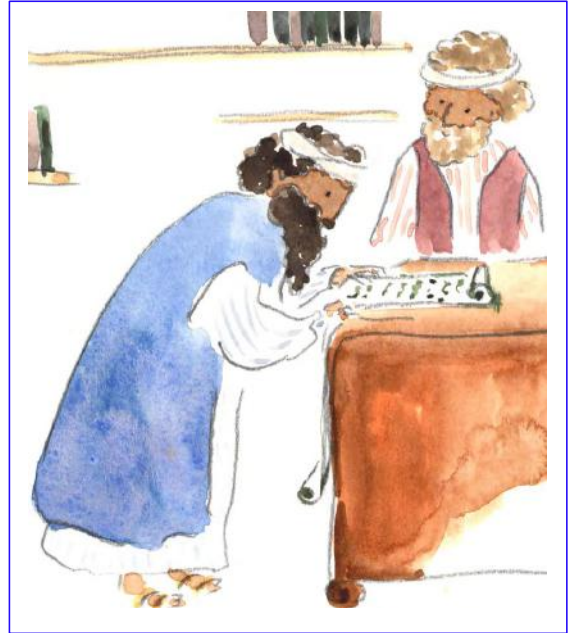
I think, if I were King of Greece,
I'd push things off the mantelpiece.

If I were King of Norway,
I'd ask an elephant to stay.

If I were King of Babylon,
I'd leave my button gloves undone.

If I were King of Timbuctoo,
I'd think of lovely things to do.

If I were King of anything,
I'd tell the soldiers, "I'm the King!"



Top tips for learning a poem by heart

- Read the poem aloud several times slowly.
- Copy the poem out a couple of times.
- Be strategic. Pick a poem with a pattern, metre and rhyme are much easier to learn by heart than free verse.
- Learn and internalise the 'story' in the poem
- Understand the poem by knowing every word's meaning
- With a card, cover everything but the first line of the poem. Read it. Look away, see the line in the air, and say it. Look back. Repeat until you've 'got it.'
- Uncover the second line. Learn it as you did the first line, but also add second line to first, until you've got the two.
- Then it's on to three. Always repeat the first line on down, till the whole poem sings.



Country names

There are 195 countries in the world. Here are some to get you going.

Afghanistan	Burundi	Estonia
Albania	Cabo Verde	Eswatini
Algeria	Cambodia	Ethiopia
Andorra	Cameroon	Fiji
Angola	Canada	Finland
Antigua and Barbuda	Central African Republic	France
Argentina	Chad	Gabon
Armenia	Chile	The Gambia
Australia	China	Georgia
Austria	Colombia	Germany
Azerbaijan	Comoros	Ghana
The Bahamas	Congo	Greece
Bahrain	Costa Rica	Grenada
Bangladesh	Côte d'Ivoire	Guatemala
Barbados	Croatia	Guinea
Belarus	Cuba	Guinea-Bissau
Belgium	Cyprus	Guyana
Belize	Czech Republic	Haiti
Benin	Denmark	Honduras
Bhutan	Djibouti	Hungary
Bolivia	Dominica	Iceland
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Dominican Republic	India
Botswana	East Timor	Indonesia
Brazil	Ecuador	Iran
Brunei	Egypt	
Bulgaria	El Salvador	
Burkina Faso	Equatorial Guinea	
	Eritrea	

If I were king



A large rectangular writing area with a decorative orange and black zigzag border. The interior of the rectangle is filled with horizontal lines, providing a space for writing. The border consists of a repeating pattern of orange zigzags and black dots.