



Year 4 English Tasks – Wednesday 24th June 2020

Parents and Children: Today, we will finish our work on *Hamster! Hamster!* by composing a completely original new piece. I hope you enjoy the activity!

Task 1

So far this week, we have created a poem about our school tortoise using Joseph Coelho's poem *Hamster! Hamster!* as a template. Look at the entire poem and notice how much is identical in the two main verses – I've highlighted them for you (if you print in colour, it is readable). Essentially, Joseph has written only 1 verse where he either loved or hated his school hamster. When he was happy with his verse, he used it to write the other half of the poem and made the descriptions and comparisons the opposites. For example, 'He's so sweet, so cute,' became 'He is so mean, so horrible,'

Your task today, is to compose your own poem, about any animal you like, which uses a similar style to *Hamster! Hamster!* Both of the main verses should have very similar patterns and structure, with one focusing on the positive and the other negative. They should be separated by a 'pivot' moment – when something happens that makes the person go from loving to hating the animal. If you are stuck for ideas, you could write about a pet or an animal you have seen in the zoo. You could also choose an animal that interests you that you have seen in a book or on TV. If it helps, complete some research first so that you can describe the animal with a lot of detail. Remember, *Hamster! Hamster!* is a performance poem and is entertaining. You want your audience to enjoy reading or hearing your poem.

Hamster! Hamster!

We've got a hamster in our class,
as brown as toffee.
He's so sweet, so cute,
with chubby cheeks
for storing nuts and fruit.
He sips from a water bottle
strapped to his cage,
like a little baby!
Awww, he's soooooo cute.
He's got these darling little paws
like a doll's hands,
and a sweet, cute, tiny little tail
like a little piece of spaghetti!
Awwwww, he is soooooo deliciously cute.

One day I put my finger up to his cage,
and he sniffed it with a nose
like a chocolate-chip button
and he... BIT ME!

We've got a hamster in our class,
as brown as a bog.
He is so mean, so horrible,
with fat cheeks
for storing pupils' fingers.
He sucks at a water bottle
strapped to his cage,
like a greedy rat!
Errr, he's soooooo disgusting.
He's got these vicious claws
as terrible as a tiger's,
and a long, wiggerly, squiggerly tail
as scaly as a snake!
ARRRR
he is soooooo perfectly horrid.

Task 2

When you have finished your poem, check the spellings and punctuation and then read the poem aloud several times. If you need to, make any changes to your vocabulary choices to improve the rhyme or structure of your poem.

Task 3

Read *Hamster! Hamster!* and then your own poem aloud, like a performance. Do the two poems fit together? Do they have a similar style and structure? If they don't, edit your poem to make your piece closer to the style of Joseph Coelho's example.

As always, if you'd like to send your work in, we'd be delighted to see what you have created so do get in touch if you'd like to share your work.