

# 3.3 Rhyme riddles

**Focus** Speaking and Listening, especially reading aloud and responding to repetitions; Vocabulary, especially single words; (Optional) Writing, especially riddles

**Level** Low intermediate–Intermediate

**Time** 10–20 minutes

**Materials and preparation** Choose handouts and make a class set so that every student has a list but partners in a pair have different ones. (See the handouts.)

## In class

- 1 Teach (or remind) your learners what vowels and consonants are.
- 2 Teach, or remind your learners what rhyme is.
- 3 Write the following on the board: ‘Light rhymes with *bite* and *bright*.’ Lead choral repetition of this sentence.
- 4 Say that they are going to be working in pairs (or trios) and that you’ll give each person in each pair/trio a (different) list of riddles to read out to their partner(s), who should try to guess the answer. Also say that listeners should *always* ask readers for repetitions when they haven’t understood something and that they should ask about any unfamiliar words. Finally, they should ask you if necessary.
- 5 Hand out the lists, and ask everyone to read their (own) riddles silently and try to understand them.
- 6 Deal with any questions about vocabulary. But if someone still doesn’t understand their riddle, advise them to read it to their partner(s) anyway since quite often the partner will understand and will be able to explain it to the reader.

## Follow up

- 7 Ask students to write their own rhyme riddles.

## Notes

- This exercise is a good follow-up after Effective pausing when reading aloud (1.2).
- Working with words rhymes with each other helps remove doubts and misunderstandings about pronunciation.
- It is now a well-established fact that poor awareness of rhyme is a sign that a student is not going to progress well in reading (see, for example, the informative article on ‘Phonological awareness’). Activities of this kind can remove this handicap.

## About the handouts for Rhyme riddles

All are for the levels Low intermediate–Intermediate. The handouts give the answers to the riddles.

# Rhyme riddles

## Handout 3.3a

- 1 What can you read that rhymes with the word *look*? (A book)
- 2 What nasty animal rhymes with the word *cat*? (A rat)
- 3 What's the thing in the sky that rhymes with *moon*? (A sun)
- 4 What's on the end of your foot that rhymes with *shoes*? (Your toes)
- 5 What do you stand on that rhymes with *four*? (The floor)
- 6 What can you sail in that rhymes with *hip* and *tip*? (A ship)
- 7 What can you think that rhymes with *caught*? (Thought)
- 8 What small mountain rhymes with *pill*? (A hill)
- 9 What short strong finger rhymes with *one*? (A thumb)
- 10 The word for what fish rhymes with *dark*? (A shark)

# Rhyme riddles

## Handout 3.3b

- 1 What container for soup rhymes with the word *hole*? (A bowl)
- 2 What synonym for big rhymes with the word *pig*? (Big)
- 3 What smaller rhymes with *sock*? (A clock)
- 4 What vehicle rhymes with *car*? (A far)
- 5 What container for honey and jam rhymes with *far*? (A jar)
- 6 What opposite of *son* rhymes with *water*? (A daughter)
- 7 What synonym of the word *beginning* rhymes with *heart*? (Start)
- 8 What rhymes with *hope* and can make you clean? (Soap)
- 9 What milk-giving animal rhymes with *now*? (A cow)
- 10 What word meaning 'fast' rhymes with *sick*? (Quick)

# Rhyme riddles

## Handout 3.3c

- 1 What word for 'intelligent' rhymes with *heart*. (Smart)
- 2 What word for 'frozen water' rhymes with *nice*.
- 3 What kitchen appliance rhymes with *bridge*. (A fridge)
- 4 What's funny and rhymes with *Coke*? (A joke)
- 5 What opposite of *bottom* rhymes with *stop*? (Top)
- 6 What opposite of *nervous* rhymes with *palm*? (Calm)
- 7 What beautiful sound rhymes with *bringing*? (Singing)
- 8 The word for what reptile rhymes with *make*, *snake*? (Snake)
- 9 What hard metal rhymes with *feel*? (Steel)
- 10 What dessert rhymes with *take*? (Cake)

# Rhyme riddles

## Handout 3.3d

- 1 What color rhymes with *you*? (Blue)
- 2 What hole in a door rhymes with *more*? (A door)
- 3 What opposite of the word *laugh* rhymes with *fly*? (Cry)
- 4 What rhymes with *hole* that is hard, black and burns? (Coal)
- 5 What opposite of *short* rhymes with *fall*? (Tall)
- 6 What opposite of *enemy* rhymes with the word *end*? (Friend)
- 7 What do you sleep in that rhymes with *said*? (A bed)
- 8 What alcoholic drink rhymes with *fine*? (Wine)
- 9 What big animal rhymes with *hair*? (A bear)
- 10 What synonym of *injured* rhymes with *dirt*? (Hurt)

# Rhyme riddles

## Handout 3.3e

- 1 What European country rhymes with *dance*? (France)
- 2 What number rhymes with *when*? (Ten)
- 3 What colour rhymes with *seen*? (Green)
- 4 What can you see on a table that's round and flat rhymes with *eight*? (A plate)
- 5 What's round, has a hole in the middle, goes on your finger and rhymes with *sing*? (A ring)
- 6 What does rain fall from that rhymes with *cloud*? (A cloud)
- 7 What noun of *high* rhymes with *might* and *fight*? (Thought)
- 8 What part of a car is usually round, black, full of air, and rhymes with *fire*? (Tyre<sup>UK</sup>/tire<sup>US/Can</sup>)
- 9 What's sweet, sticky, and made by bees? It rhymes with *money* and *funny*. (Honey)
- 10 What opposite of *lose* rhymes with *find*, *mind*? (Find)

# Rhyme riddles

## Handout 3.3f

- 1 What northern European language rhymes with *much*? (Dutch)
- 2 What's big, deep, and salty, and rhymes with *tea*? (Sea)
- 3 What has a back seat, four legs, and rhymes with *hair*? (A chair)
- 4 What's very strong, very hard metal rhymes with *feel*? (Steel)
- 5 What soft melts, and rhymes with *nice*? (Ice)
- 6 What opposite of *borrow* rhymes with *send*? (Lend)
- 7 Which western European country rhymes with *rain*? (Spain)
- 8 What opposite of *show* rhymes with *side* and *ride*? (Hide)
- 9 What synonym of *bag* rhymes with *back*? (Sack)
- 10 What opposite of *sold* rhymes with *caught* and *taught*? (Bought)