

Name _____

Date _____

Word play

■ Read and enjoy these poems, then highlight the words that are 'played' with by the poet.

Away From It All

I wish I were a Tibetan monk
 Living in a monastery.
 I would unpack my trunk
 And store it in a tronastery;
 I would collect all my junk
 And send it to a jonastery;
 I would try to reform a drunk,
 And pay his expenses at a dronastery
 If my income shrunk
 I would send it to a shronastery.

From Candy is Dandy by Ogden Nash

Little Spider

Little Spider
 spider sadly
 in the webly
 light of leaves!
 Why deride a
 spider's mentadly
 when it's hebly
 full of grieves?
 Little spider
 legged and
 lonely in the
 bony way of
 thieves. Where's
 the fly-da
 on the phonebly?

*From A Book of Nonsense
 by Mervyn Peake*

The ankle's chief end is exposiery
 Of the latest designs in silk hosiery;
 Also, I suspect,
 It's a means to connect
 The part called the calf with the toesiery.

Anon

There were three ghostesses
 Sitting on postesses
 Eating buttered toastesses
 And greasing their fistesses
 Right up to their wristesses,
 Weren't they beastesses
 To make such feastesses!

Anon

Dear helper

Objective: To investigate how poets achieve humour through word play.

Task: Take it in turns with your child to read the poems and then talk about how each plays with words.