

Jelly Jake and Butter Bill

by Leroy F. Jackson (adapted)

Jelly Jake and Butter Bill

One dark night when all was still
Pattered down the long, dark stair,
And no one saw the guilty pair;
Pushed aside the pantry-door*
And there found everything galore*.

Well, they ate and ate and ate,
Gobbled at an awful rate
Till I'm sure they soon weighed more
Than double what they did before.
And then, it's awful, still it's true,
The floor gave way and they went through.

Filled so full they couldn't fight,
Slowly they sank out of sight.
Their Father, Mother, Cousin Ann,
Cook and nurse and fireman
Fished in forty different ways
After them, for twenty days;
But no one's had the chance to get
A glimpse or glimmer of them yet.
And I'm afraid we never will—
Poor Jelly Jake and Butter Bill.

Glossary

pantry — a small room or large cupboard for storing food
galore — in great amounts



2b

Fact Retrieval Questions

FACT RETRIEVAL is just a fancy way of saying 'finding facts'. Read through each of the following questions and then hunt through the poem until you find the answers.

1) Who went down the stairs? Circle your answer.

Look at the very start of the poem.

cook and nurse

Jake and Bill

Jake and Father

Mother and Cousin Ann

1 mark

2) Read from the start of the poem to '...saw the guilty pair'. Write down **two** things the poem tells you about the stairs.

.....

.....

2 marks

3) Read from 'And then, it's awful...' to '...out of sight'.

Read the poem carefully.

Why couldn't Jake and Bill escape from the hole in the floor? Circle your answer.

They were too full.

They were tired.

They were lazy.

It was too dark.

1 mark

4) Read from 'Filled so full...' to the end of the poem.

Put a tick in the correct box to show whether each statement is true or false.

The first one has been done for you.

| | True | False |
|---|------|-------|
| Cousin Ann sank through the floor. | | ✓ |
| A fireman tried to help Jake and Bill. | | |
| People tried to rescue Jake and Bill for thirty days. | | |

1 mark

Poetrydactyls love to swoop in and snap up new facts. How did you find the questions on this page?





When answering *INFERENCE* questions, you need to look a little deeper to work out what the poet is saying. Put your inference skills to the test and try out these questions.

- 1) 'And no one saw the guilty pair'

This line suggests that Jake and Bill were

Think about what the word 'guilty' means.

friendly

being
naughty

well
behaved

nasty

Circle your answer.

1 mark

- 2) 'The floor gave way and they went through.'

Why did the floor give way?

Look at what happened just before this in the poem.

.....

1 mark

- 3) Read from 'Filled so full...' to '...and fireman'.

What is the relationship between Jake and Bill?

They are
brothers.

They are
cousins.

They are
neighbours.

They are
best friends.

Circle your answer.

1 mark

- 4) Read from 'Fished in...' to '...glimmer of them yet.'

What does this section suggest about Jake and Bill? Tick **one** box.

They haven't been rescued.

People weren't looking for them.

They were hiding from everyone.

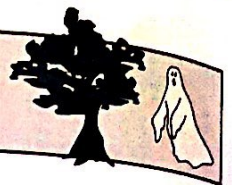
They ran away from home.

1 mark

Poetrydactyls like to relax with a nice cup of tea and an inference question. Tick to show how you got on.



Word Meaning Questions



2a

WORD MEANING questions quiz you about some of the trickier words in the poem. They are the perfect way to show off your vocabulary skills, so get stuck in to this page.

- 1) Read from the start of the poem to **'...found everything galore.'**
Which word in this section means 'walked quickly'? Tick **one** box.

pattered

found

aside

pushed

1 mark

- 2) **'Gobbled at an awful rate'**

Which word could the poet have used in this line to replace **'gobbled'**?

cooked

guzzled

nibbled

licked

Circle your answer.

1 mark

- 3) Read from **'Till I'm sure they...'** to **'...out of sight.'**

Which word in this section is closest in meaning to **'dreadful'**?

.....

1 mark

- 4) **'A glimpse or glimmer of them yet.'**

What does the word **'glimpse'** mean in this line?

Think about what has happened to Jake and Bill in this part of the poem.

sighting

comment

opinion

sound

Circle your answer.

1 mark

The more word meanings a Poetrydactyl knows, the bigger it grows. Did you know the words on this page?



2f

Structure Questions



For **STRUCTURE** questions, you need to think about how the poem is organised and how different sections work together. Read the poem again, then give these questions a go.

1) Put these events in the order they happened.

The first one has been done for you.

- Jake and Bill opened the pantry-door.
- The floor gave way.
- Jake and Bill sank through the floor.
- Jake and Bill ate lots of food.

1 mark

2) How does the end of the poem link back to the start?

Look at what we're told about the characters in these sections.

.....
.....

1 mark

2e

Prediction Question



When you're tackling **PREDICTION** questions, you need to think about what might happen next based on the information you've been given in the poem. Have a go at this question.

1) Do you think Jake and Bill will ever be found?
Use evidence from the poem to explain your answer.

Try to give as much detail as you can.

.....
.....
.....

2 marks

Poetrydactyls love to spend their summer holidays answering questions like these. How did you do?

