



Comprehension Challenge
(to support TUESDAY 020620 teacher-led powerpoint for the 'Newt' poem)



Answer these comprehension questions about the 'Newt' poem you've studied, above. Now challenge your friends to answer questions about this great poem.

Learn and perform it to someone you love.

After that, if you have an appetite for more, write your own super Newt-inspired poetry.

Newt

'Newt, oh newt, you are so cute!
Emoted the coot to the too-cute newt,
'With your frilly back and your shiny suit
and your spotted skin so unhirsute!
'Too cute?! Roared the newt to the
unastute coot. 'With all this careless
talk of cute you bring me into
disrepute, for newts aren't cute:
we're kings of the pond, lions of the
duckweed, dragons of the water;
albeit, it's true,'-he paused- 'minute.'



QUESTIONS

1. Look through the 'Newt' poem and write down all the words that rhyme in the poem.

2. "***Newt, oh newt, you are so cute***' is the first line of the poem. Look at the drawing of the newt. Is it cute or is the poet being ironic (look up that word!)? How would you describe the newt? (use adjectives like 'spiky').

3. Look at the second line. It starts with: '***Emoted....***' What does that word mean? Have a guess, first, using the words around it to think before you look it up!



Comprehension Challenge

(to support TUESDAY 020620 teacher-led powerpoint for the 'Newt' poem)

4. Line 3 describes the newt with **a frilly back and your shiny suit**. What is the author talking about here? Can you remember what this sort of language is called?

5. *The newt's skin is said to be 'so spotted and unhirsute'*. Look carefully at the drawing of the newt. What does this tell you about it?

6. Name the other creature that the newt is in conversation with. Do you think they would/could be friends in real life?

7. Why do you think the newt is so cross about being called cute? Look at the language he uses to answer what the coot says to give you evidence for your answer.

8. We found out right at the end of the poem that newts are '**minute**'. *Explain the word and list as many other words that mean the same as minute e.g. small. Once you have done that, did you read the word correctly or were you thinking of another minute?*

9. Now you have worked your way through the tricky words in this poem, look again at it. Why does the poet use 7 lines after the T in NEWT when other letters at the beginning of the word NEWT get only one or two?

10. Finally decide which poem you prefer – this one '**newt**' or yesterday's '**weasel**'. Compare and contrast the two poems so your opinions are clear and strong.



Comprehension Challenge

(to support TUESDAY 020620 teacher-led powerpoint for the 'Newt' poem)

ANSWERS (to support parents/carers)

1. Rhyming words are **newt/cute/disrepute** etc
2. The newt is far from cute, looks like a mini dragon and has a temperament to match.
3. '**emoted**' means to speak.
4. '**a frilly back and a shiny suit**' describes the appearance of the newt's back and the grammar is called metaphor.)
5. '**So spotty and unhirsute**' - the word hirsute means hairy so the opposite meaning, by adding an 'un' means it is smooth skinned and hairless!)
6. The coot and the newt would not be friends in real life – indeed the coot is a predator of the newt.
7. The newt does not want to be known as cute. He wants a strong and fierce reputation like kings/dragons/lions.
8. Lots of different words that mean the same as minute like petite etc and other meaning for minute is 60 seconds.
9. Format of poem - various answers – no right or wrong answers.
10. Own answer.