

Mr Nobody

Have you ever broken plates and done other sorts of mischief in your house and blamed it on someone else? In this poem, all the blame goes to an unknown person, 'Mr Nobody'.



I know a funny little man,
As quiet as a mouse,
Who does the mischief that is done
In everybody's house!
There's no one ever sees his face,
And yet we all agree
That every plate we break was cracked
By Mr Nobody.

'Tis he who always tears out books,
Who leaves the door ajar,
He pulls the buttons from our shirts,
And scatters pins afar;
That squeaking door will always squeak,
For prithe, don't you see,
We leave the oiling to be done
By Mr Nobody.

He puts damp wood upon the fire
That kettles cannot boil;
His are the feet that bring in mud,
And all the carpets soil.
The papers always are mislaid;
Who had them last, but he?
There's no one tosses them about
But Mr Nobody.

mischief: behaviour or acts that cause trouble but are not harmful **'tis:** it is **ajar:** slightly open
scatters: throws or drops things in different directions so that they cover an area of the ground
prithe: an exclamation used when asking somebody politely to do something **damp:** slightly wet **soil:** become dirty
mislaid: put something somewhere and then be unable to find it again, especially for only a short time

The finger marks upon the door
By none of us are made;
We never leave the **blinds** unclosed,
To let the curtains fade.
The ink we never spill; the boots
That lying round you see
Are not our boots,—they all belong
To Mr Nobody.

Make connections

Answer the following questions based on the poem.

In this section, we will:

- understand the details of the poem.
- learn how to analyze a poem.
(C-2.1, 2.2)

1. Choose the right answer.
 - a. What is the poem mostly about?
 - i. An actual person who does mischief
 - ii. An imaginary person blamed for mischief
 - iii. Everybody in the house
 - b. Which of the following is a comparison?
 - i. A funny little man
 - ii. As quiet as a mouse
 - iii. 'Tis he who always tears out books
 - c. '*He pulls the buttons from our shirts, And scatters pins afar;*' — Here the word 'afar' means
 - i. at a distance
 - ii. close by
 - iii. nowhere
 - d. According to the poet, what is the one thing that everyone agrees on?
 - i. The mischief and mess are nobody's fault.
 - ii. Everybody is to blame for the mischief and mess around the house.
 - iii. Mr Nobody causes all the mischief and mess.

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blinds: a roll of cloth that is fixed at the top of a window and can be pulled up and down to cover the window (used to block sunlight)

2. Read these lines and answer the questions that follow.

He puts damp wood upon the fire

That kettles cannot boil;

His are the feet that bring in mud,

And all the carpets soil.

- Who is blamed for putting damp wood upon the fire?
 - What is the effect of the damp wood?
 - What soils the carpets?
3. Which of the following are the rhyming pairs from the poem? Circle them.

man-done mouse-house ajar-afar made-fade spill-all

4. Complete the list of mischief and mess described in the poem.

a. Cracks plates

b. Tears out books

c.

d. Pulls buttons from shirts

e.

f. Doesn't oil the door

g.

h.

i.

j.

k. Leaves the blinds open

l.

m. Leaves boots lying around

5. What does the poet want to show through the poem?

Appreciation



Similes and metaphors

A **simile** says one thing is **like** another. Similes use the words *like* or *as*.

Examples: He was **as** quiet **as** a mouse.

The athlete runs **like** the wind.

A **metaphor** says that one **is** another.

Examples: He **is** a quiet mouse.

My grandmother **is** a busy bee.



Metaphors are stronger comparisons than similes. When you use a metaphor, you are saying that something *is* something else not just *like* something else!

1. Write **M** against the sentences with metaphors and **S** against the sentences with similes.

- Books are treasure chests.
- Reading a book is like taking a journey into new lands.
- My pillow feels as soft as a cloud.
- My grandmother is a mountain of strength.
- Our teacher is a walking encyclopaedia.
- Nurses are angels.
- The setting sun was like a pot of melting butter.
- This train moves as slow as a snail.



2. Use similes to describe yourself.

I am as...

brave as a _____

funny as a _____

smart as a _____

sweet as a _____

happy as a _____

loud as a _____

3. Use metaphors to describe any five of the nouns given in the box.

a family member a tree the moon a bird rain/raindrops
a library your best friend your class/classroom