

Mermaid

If I could breathe beneath the sea,
Half person and half fish,
I'd dive down till I found a coral door
And in I'd swish
To swim through weedy canyons
And find the hall of stone
Where Neptune rules the oceans
From his dolphin-guarded throne.

Richard Edwards

Listen

Shhhhhhhhhhhhh!
Sit still, very still
And listen.
Listen to wings
Lighter than eyelashes
Stroking the air.
Know what the thin breeze
Whispers on high
To the coconut trees.
Listen and hear.

Telcine Turner

On the Ning Nang Nong

On the Ning Nang Nong
Where the Cows go Bong!
And the Monkeys all say boo!
There's a Nong Nang Ning
Where the trees go Ping!
And the teapots Jibber Jabber Joo.
On the Nong Ning Nang
All the mice go Clang!
And you just can't catch 'em when they do!
So it's Ning Nang Nong!
Cows go Bong!
Nong Nang Ning!
Trees go Ping!
Nong Ning Nang!
The mice go Clang!
What a noisy place to belong,
Is the Ning Nang Ning Nang Nong!

Spike Milligan

Cats

Cats sleep
Anywhere,
Any table,
Any chair,
Top of piano,
Window-ledge,
In the middle,
On the edge,
Open drawer,
Empty shoe,
Anybody's
Lap will do,
Fitted in a
Cardboard box,
In the cupboard
With your frocks -
Anywhere!
They don't care!
Cats sleep
Anywhere.

Eleanor Farjeon

Bed in Summer

In winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle-light.
In summer, quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.

I have to go to bed and see
The birds still hopping on the tree,
Or hear the grown-up people's feet
Still going past me in the street.

And does it not seem hard to you,
When all the sky is clear and blue,
And I should like so much to play,
To have to go to bed by day?

Robert Louis Stevenson

Mrs Moon

Mrs Moon
sitting up in the sky,
little old lady
rock-a-bye,
with a ball of fading light
and silvery needles
knitting the night.

Alligator

If you want to see an alligator
you must go down the muddy slushy end
of the old Caroonny River.

I know an alligator who's living down there.
She's a-big. She's a-mean. She's a-wild.
She's a-fierce.

But if you really want to see an alligator
you must go down to the muddy slushy end
of the old Caroonny River.
Go down gently to that river and say

'Alligator Mama
Alligator Mama
Alligator Mamaaaaaaa.'
And up she'll rise
but don't stick around
RUN FOR YOUR LIFE.

Grace Nichols

I'm a Tree

Autumn leaves,
In the breeze
Falling down
On the ground.

On my knees
In the leaves,
Rolling round
On the ground.

Look at me -
I'm a tree,
Leaves all brown
And falling down!

Tony Bradman