

Lockdown Tales Activities



‘In the Summer When I Go to Bed’

By Thomas Hood

Read for Wonderful Beast’s Lockdown Tales by Hugh Fraser, with original music by Sylvia Hallett.



This poem is all about **imagination**. Do you ever lie in bed imagining what you would like to be? Maybe you look at the curtains in the half dark, and see all sorts of shapes and figures in the patterns and folds?

The poet Thomas Hood was born 221 years ago in 1799, and he died in 1845, aged 46 years. Would you have guessed his poem was written **two centuries ago**? Do you think we have changed much when it comes to using our imagination?

Close your eyes and listen to Hugh Fraser reading the poem again here:

<https://soundcloud.com/lockdowntales/in-the-summer-when-i-go-to-bed-thomas-hood-read-by-hugh-fraser>

*Did you enjoy it? Which of the **animals** was your **favourite** and why?*

The poem features **twelve different animals**. How many animals, creatures or other things can you think of, that **you might like to be**? Would you be a tortoise? a bee? a seagull? a rocket...?

We would love to hear from you about which animals you’d choose.

Write a poem about what you would like to be.

Use **four lines per verse**. A four-line verse is called a **quatrain**.

Thomas Hood’s poem begins with one verse of six lines and the rest four lines each.

Your poem could start:

*When I go to bed
I think I’d like to be...*

Rap it!

Maybe you would like to give your poem a more modern flavour and **put a beat** under it.

Try tapping out a couple of verses as you listen to the original poem. They have a natural rhythm of **four strong beats** per line. People studying poetry call this type of beat ‘**tetrameter**’ (tetra = four).

You could take it in turns with a friend, with the family, or in class to take a verse each.

Send us your creations! Use the hashtag **#LockdownTales**

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