

The Children's Bookshow

GET CREATIVE!

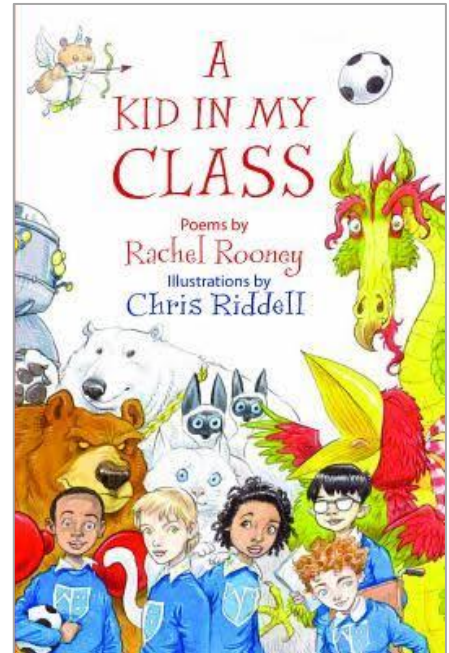
A Kid in My Class

By Rachel Rooney
Illustrated by Chris Riddell

Have a go at these creative activities at home or at school. Visit our website for many more ideas and activities linked to our other featured books!

www.thechildrensbookshow.com/news

Write a Poem



A Kid in My Class is a collection of poems all about the characters who can be found in a typical primary school classroom. Do you recognise yourself or any of your friends in the collection? Have a go at writing a poem to describe yourself or one of the children in your class. The following example is based on the rhythm and rhyme scheme of *The Poet*.

Start by looking at the rhythm and rhyme scheme of the poem. This will provide you with a structure on which to base your poem.

| | |
|--|---|
| The light through the blind is a poem, | 9 |
| the way it illuminates the air. | 9 |
| And the shadows that fall | 6 |
| on the floor and the wall | 6 |
| are signs that a poem is there. | 8 |

Rhythm

The rhythm of a poem is the beat and pace of it. A simple way to find the rhythm of a poem is to count the number of syllables in each line.

| | |
|--|---|
| The light through the blind is a poem, | A |
| the way it illuminates the air. | B |
| And the shadows that fall | C |
| on the floor and the wall | C |
| are signs that a poem is there. | B |

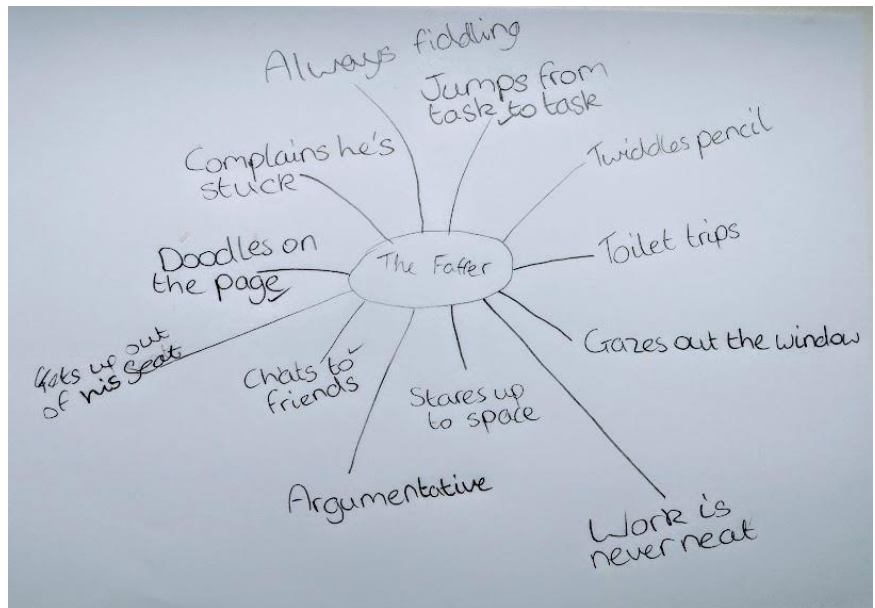
Rhyme Scheme

The rhyme scheme of a poem is the pattern of rhymes at the ends of the lines. Work out the rhyme scheme of a poem by identifying the words that rhyme with each other. Then look at

their pattern within the verse and label each set of rhyming words with the same letter. The rhyme scheme here is ABCCB.

Next, think of the main personality trait of the person and then brainstorm all of the thoughts, emotions, actions and behaviours which you associate with that trait.

Finally, write your poem. Use an online rhyming dictionary, or swap words around in the line to help with finding rhymes.



The Faffer

The boy is easily distracted.
He chats quite a lot with his friends.
When he's reading a book,
he doodles a duck
and prays that the day will soon end.

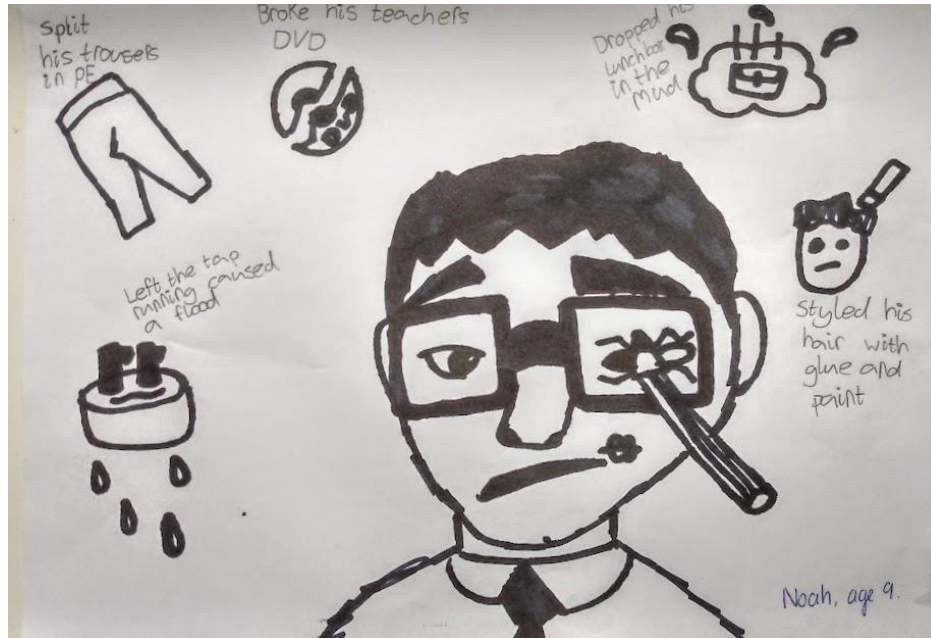
The boy is easily distracted.
Always jumping from task to task.
Getting out of his seat,
his work's never neat
and he frequently finishes last.

The boy is easily distracted.
He's always fiddling with stuff.
He stares up into space
and trips on his lace
'til his teacher ends up in a huff.

By Archie (age 11)

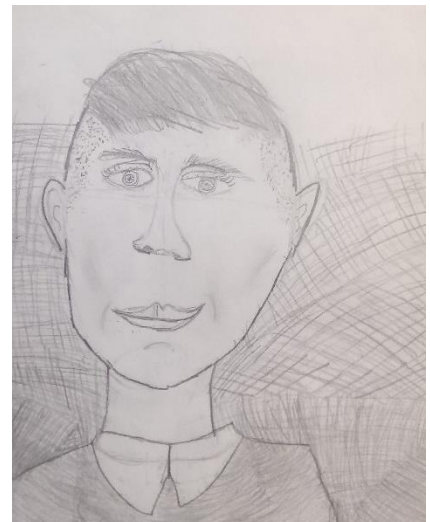
Visualise a Poem

Visualisation is the ability to create mental images of characters, settings and events while reading a text. Being able to visualise helps you to become more involved with the story as you read it.



In the poem *Accident Prone*, Rachel describes a series of calamities which the boy experiences. Can you picture these disastrous accidents in your mind's eye? Have a go at drawing one, two or maybe all of them. You could draw several images to show each accident in succession. Or perhaps you could show how the boy and his classroom looks after all of these disasters! Other poems in the collection which are particularly good for visualisation are: *Tomboy*, *Cool*, *Ravenous* and *Twins*.

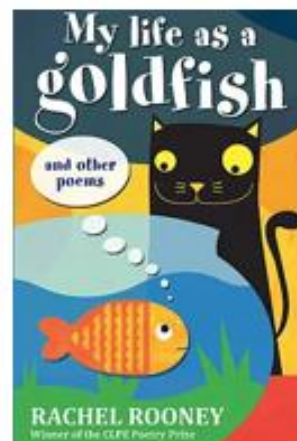
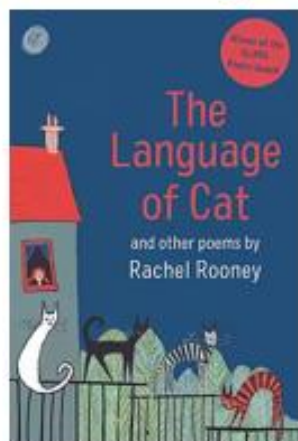
Draw Self Portraits in the Style of Chris Riddell



Further Activities to Try

1. Choose a poem to perform for friends or family. Poems which are particularly good for performance are *Tips for the New Boy*, *Accident Prone*, *Fidget*, *Copycat* and *Drama Queen Award*.
2. Create a soundscape to accompany *Tips for the New Boy*. You could do this digitally by finding sound effects online or create your own sound effects using your voice, body percussion or items you can find around the house.
3. The collection contains a wide range of different forms of poetry including Haiku (*Her-Ku*), Kenning (*Fidget*), List Poem (*The Questioner*), Simile Poem (*As Shy As*). Explore these poetry forms in more detail on the [BBC Bitesize](https://www.bbc.com/bitesize) website and have a go at writing your own.
4. Design a front cover for your own version of *A Kid in My Class*. Think about each of your classmates, and your teacher. Draw them as themselves, or as their alter-ego: do you have any monsters or mice, dragons or dinosaurs, devils or angels?!

More Books by Rachel Rooney



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