

# Teaching notes

## BOOK 1

### Big red boots

Contained in: Book 1 (page 4)


Genre: Poem

Author: Tony Mitton

**Introduction** This poem by children's poet Tony Mitton describes a pair of wellington boots on an outdoor walk. Its celebration of mud and puddles will delight many young children. The strong rhythm emulates the sound of booted feet, stamping along, and the verses are two pairs of couplets, rhyming AABB, with a separate rhyming couplet for the chorus. Use the pointer in the activity book to introduce the text to the children before you read it aloud.

**Answers** **Part 1:** 1. (boots should be red) 2b. stamping, hopping 3. down a country lane 4. (two of the following, or similar:) *young, happy, energetic, excited, muddy* 5. 'squeaks', 'toots'

**Part 2:** 6. *because they are happy that the boots are muddy* 7. *jumping in a puddle* 8. *squelch* 9. *the climax/ending of the poem; size of jump/splash; volume of splash; noise of splash; amount of mess made by splash.*

- Further activities**
-  Help the children to learn the chorus by heart.
  - Read the poem aloud and ask the children to march in time to the rhythm, performing the actions in each verse.
  - Discuss other places where the boots might walk. (Paddling in the sea? Swishing through tall grass or bracken?) Share ideas to create a new verse, beginning 'Big red boots . . .' (for example, 'Big red boots paddle in the sea'). Make sure that the first line ends with a word that offers a wide choice of rhymes for the second.
  - Explain that the poet has written hundreds of poems for children. Challenge the children to find more poems by Tony Mitton. Visit his website and find out more about the poet and his writing.

### British garden birds

Contained in: Book 1 (page 6)

Genre: Information / explanation

Source: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Wildlife Explorers website

**Introduction** The birds in this passage introduce themselves through simple factual statements in the first person. Make sure that the children are aware that all the birds in the extract are common garden birds. Talk about the birds that do **not** appear in this extract, such as penguins, eagles and swans. Point out that the term 'garden birds' refers to birds whose regular habitat is the garden, rather than birds of prey or farmland birds, who may occasionally visit. Use the pointer in the activity book to introduce the text to the children before you read it aloud.

**Answers** **Part 1:** 1. blue tit 2a. blackbird, robin 2b. worms 3. a nest