



Jack Prelutsky

by Elizabeth Wells
illustrated by Mary Teichman

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

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HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT
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Printed in China

ISBN-13: 978-0-547-02500-1

ISBN-10: 0-547-02500-9

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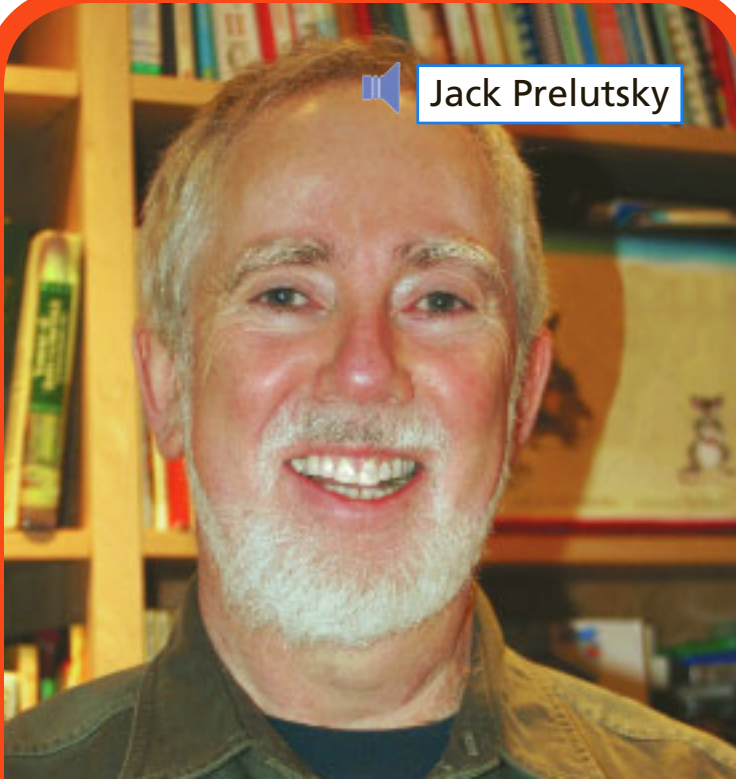
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🔊 A poem is a kind of writing with short lines. The words in a poem help show pictures and feelings. Do you like poems?

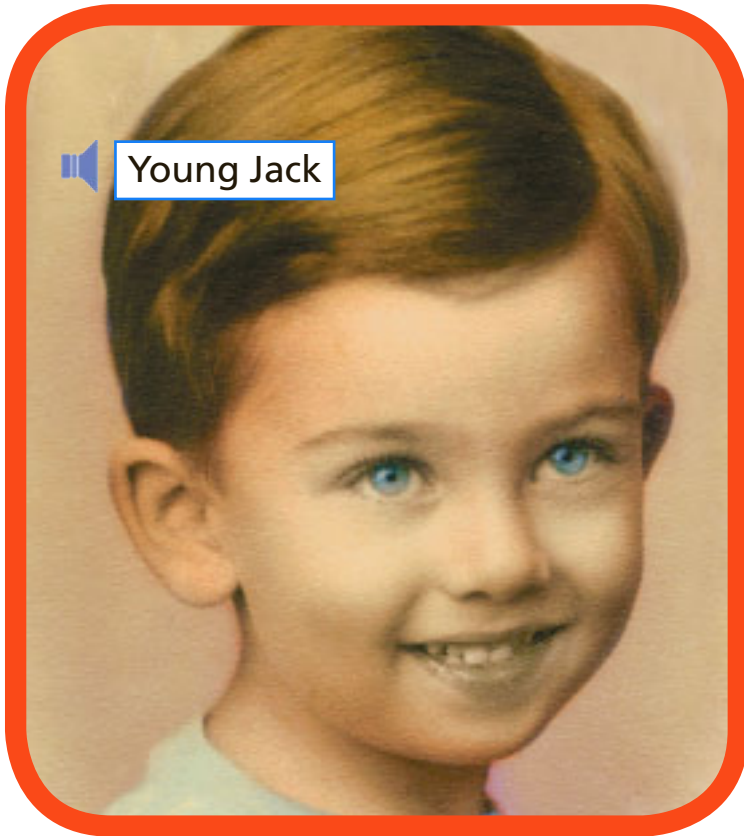
🔊 Jack Prelutsky is a poet. A poet is someone who writes poems. Jack's poems are silly! He writes about ice cream that tastes like chicken. He writes about horses that ride on people's backs.

🔊 In the bookstore, there are many books of poems by Jack. One book is called *It's Raining Pigs & Noodles*.



🔊 This book is about Jack Prelutsky.

Jack was born in 1940. He lived in New York City. When Jack was a boy, he liked many things. He liked to listen to music. He liked to draw pictures. But he did not like to read poems. All the poems he read were boring. They were not funny at all.



🔊 Young Jack

More than anything else, Jack loved to sing. He went to the School of Music and Art. There, teachers taught him how to sing and how to draw.

Jack wanted to be a singer. He did not think about being a poet.



School of Music and Art

Later, when Jack was a grownup, he had many different jobs. He drove people around in a taxi. He helped people move their furniture. He also worked as an artist. An artist is someone who draws pictures.

Jack liked to work, but he also wanted to be happy. He wanted a job that was just right for him.



🔊 Jack started to like poems. He learned that not all poems are boring.

Jack also learned poems could **express**, or show, his ideas. He could write poems about his feelings. He could write about the pictures he saw in his mind. In a poem, Jack could even **pretend** that trees can sing. He could write silly poems to make people laugh!



🔊 Trees that sing!

Jack started writing poems. He showed his poems to his friends. They laughed and laughed!

One friend had a great idea. He **wondered** if Jack could sell his poems. Then Jack could be a poet for his job!

A WOLF IS AT THE LAUNDROMAT

A wolf is at the Laundromat,
it's not a wary stare-wolf,
it's short and fat, it tips its hat,
unlike a scary glare-wolf.

It combs its hair, it clips its toes,
it is a fairly nice wolf,
that's only there to clean its clothes—
it is a wash-and-wear-wolf.



THIS POEM IS FROM
THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

A poem
Jack wrote

🔊 Jack went to a company where people make books. He showed his poems to the people there. They liked Jack's poems a lot. They asked Jack if he wanted to make his poems into a book. Yes! Jack **accepted**.

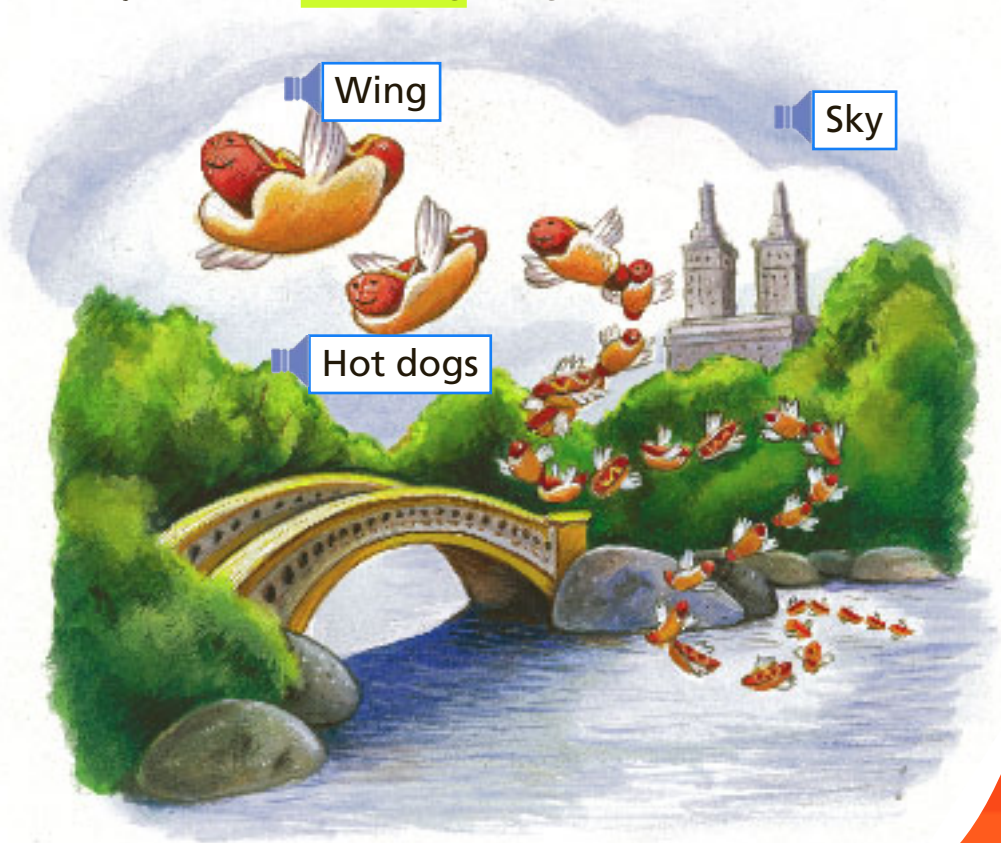
🔊 In 1967, Jack's first book was ready. It was full of poems about animals. The poems were very silly. When children read them, they laughed and laughed!

Jack was a poet!



Today, Jack writes many funny poems. He likes to write about things that do not happen in real life.

One poem is about a pizza as big as the sun. One poem is about hot dogs that fly. The hot dogs have wings, like birds! They fly through the sky on their **fluttering** wings.



🔊 Sometimes, Jack writes poems about **grand** ideas that are big and important. Sometimes he writes about small, simple things like ice cream or noses.

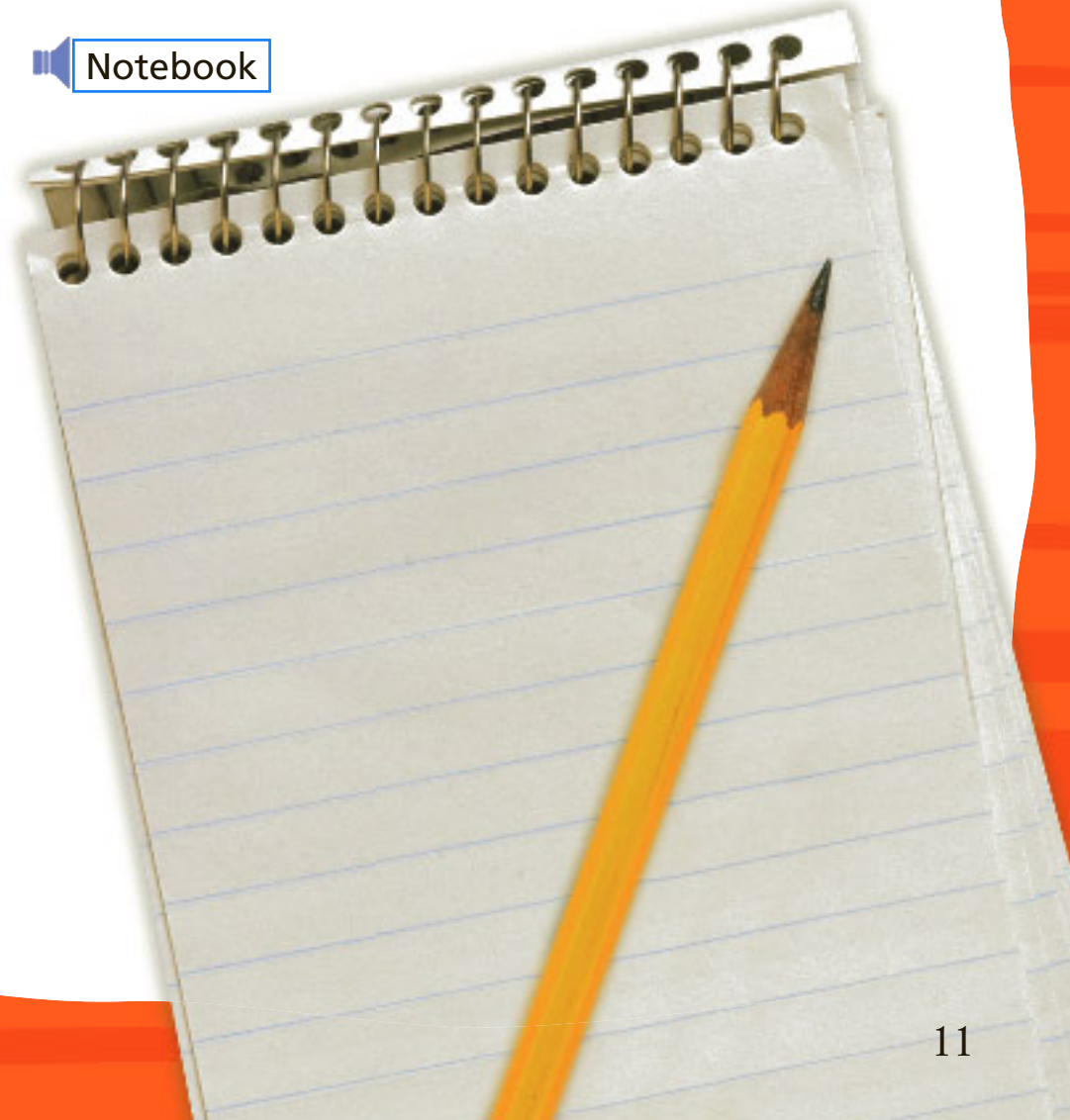
🔊 Often, Jack's ideas come from his life. He likes to eat spaghetti, so one poem is about spaghetti!



🔊 Spaghetti

Not all Jack's poems are silly. He also writes scary poems, poems about things that make you afraid. One of Jack's books is about scary things like dinosaurs with big teeth. He might write ideas for his poems in a notebook.

Notebook

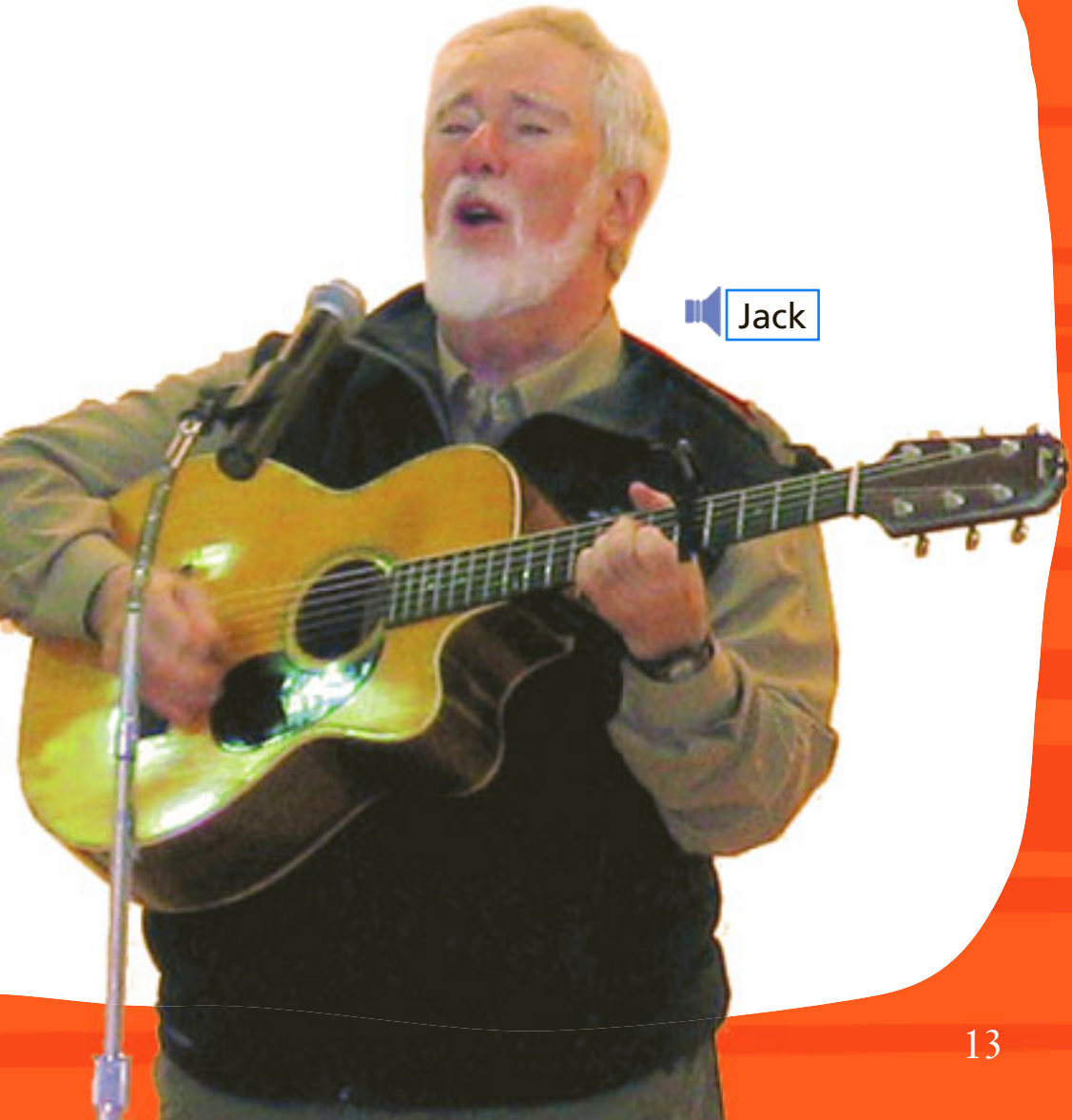


Some people like Jack's silly poems best. Some people like his scary poems best. Some people like both kinds of poems.

Jack's poems are sometimes silly and sometimes scary, but they are always fun to read. Children like to read his books. So do grownups. Sometimes parents and children read Jack's books together.



🔊 Because many people like Jack's poems, he sometimes wins prizes. In 2006, he won an important prize. The prize was for writing great poems for children.



🔊 Now Jack lives in a city called Seattle. He lives with his wife, Carolynn. Jack is happy that children like reading his poems. He hopes they think about being poets like him.

*Jack hopes they will see,
How much fun poetry can be!*



Responding



TARGET SKILL Understanding

Characters Copy this chart. In column one, write words that describe Jack Prelutsky. In column two, write things he likes to do. In column three write what his poems are about.

Words About Jack	Jack Likes To	Jack Writes About
funny	?	?



Write About It

Text to World Jack Prelutsky writes some poems about animals. Write a few sentences about a kind of animal you know. Tell details about how big it is and what it looks like.



TARGET VOCABULARY

accepted

express

fluttering

grand

pretend

prize

taught

wonder



TARGET SKILL

Understanding

Characters Tell more about characters.



TARGET STRATEGY

Analyze/Evaluate

Tell how you feel about the text, and why.



GENRE A **biography** tells about events in a person's life.

Level: M

DRA: 28

Genre:

Biography

Strategy:

Analyze/Evaluate

Skill:

Understanding Characters

Word Count: 690

2.4.18

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