



READY, STUDY, GO

And other Poems

Mysore Diwa Swapna

READY, STUDY, GO And other Poems

A collection of poems on Children

by M.D swapna

poems C41 to C 86 +ca7

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PREFACE

The first part of our poems on children was called ***Sleep Baby Sleep, and other poems***. Those were meant for infants or babies and belonged to the class of *lullaby*. In the introduction to the booklet we wrote: 'at a later stage the child would be able to understand if read out to them [or reading on their own]'. To some other children the matter in English can be told in the local or mixed language. Such poems are given here under the title ***READY, STUDY, GO And Other Poems*** .

We have included riddles in this list. This author believes that jokes, puns, simple proverbs, comics etc. could be included in children's literature. But elders should select; First check if they are not undesirable, not dull and uninteresting or too complicated.

Notes are given whenever Indian words are used. As far as possible simple words are used. When this self-made guideline is not followed due to author's lack of talent or for the sake of rhyme, apology phrase is added. Readers are requested to help the listeners [children]. Two lines as example are given below.

PROSE IS VERBOSE / VERSE IS TERSE

Another e,g ' inter-species interaction'

In part I of child poems we gave a few examples of our attempts at translation [real word would be ‘adoption’] of lullabies from a few other Indian languages. We have also stated: When the original in the native language of the writer is good and popular, any mimicking may not rise up to the original level. Yet we tried. In this booklet a hit song in Telugu is adopted to English. Some thought processes involved are given under the poem CA7.

The title of this booklet is ‘ Ready, Study , Go and other poems’. There is no poem with this title. One can find “ready, steady, go’ and later ‘read aloud ‘ good habits’. A mixture of these titles is the present one. We hope this is in tune with the general theme: physical AND mental wellbeing and growth of children,

It is hoped that themes relevant to children are dealt with throughout this booklet.

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[pen name]
Mysore.
May , 2023

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C41 READY, STEADY, GO

READY, STEADY, GO

Seems like long long ago

My school days' bare foot race

I hope, even now, by God's grace
are held such sudden races

No coaches, no starters, no aces

Children just line up and go

No matter fast or slow.

It is 1, 2, 3 .. Go for tiny tots

They know shouting numbers is fun

Before food, find some time slots

My day's voluntary work is done.

Alas! In janatha nagara, Mysore

No fun for me or the tiny tots.

Narrow crowded lanes and area is an eyesore

All actions to be done in ten-by- ten plots.

[note ; ten-by- ten = 10feetx10 feet area]



C42 ART

A line can be a snake

A stroke can be a rope

An oval can be a ball

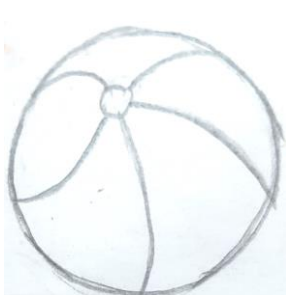
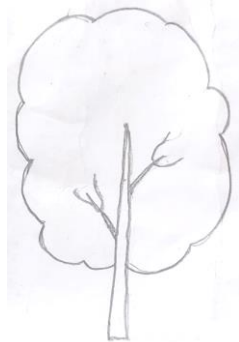
A circle can be a fruit

A doodle can be a tree

A curve can be a smileie

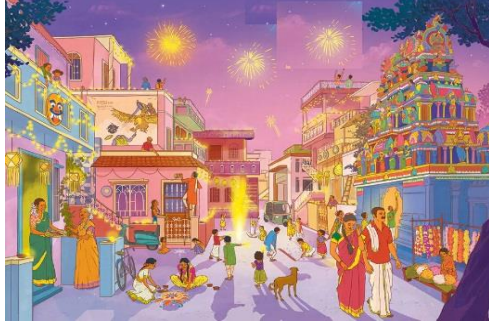
Children's art on paper

Is for seeing and saying 'super'



C43 DEEPAVALI

Lamps to light
Dull to bright
New moon night
the day is right



Deepavali! Row and row
of lamps and lanterns
Look! How they throw
light in patterns .



More light less sound
does not reduce any ritual
People have found
ways to enjoy the festival.

Sweets, snacks, esoteric eats
Of varieties of subcontinent taste
Make, savour , and share treats
What a joy without much waste!

Go children call
Uncles, aunties all
Deepavali sweets, deepavali joy
All of us together enjoy.

C44 DEEPAVALI CRACKERS

Diwali cracker , pataak
It is coming to attack
Get away patak patak!
Hey what is this ? puzz, puzz

Do not explode. Puss puss
Handheld pencil guss guss
Fire on a wire sparkle, cackle
Cicle in the air fickle, twinkle

Cone like a volcano. Push up
Fire like a fountain gush up
Light bulbs on the trees blink blink
Leaves in the night glisten flash

Carpet of colours whirl swirl
Wheel on fire, whirr, whirr
Hey, where has it gone?
Go to the pooja room
See vishnu's right hand –vroom, vroom

Deepavali night	Everywhere light,
on the day of new moon\	darkness gone.
Tonight is diwali	come out whole family
Share the light	make the world bright
Welcome to the festival	Let greetings be mutual
with lamps in rows	see brotherhood grows.





Kaju Katli



Barfi



Gulab Jamun



Imarti



Rasgulla



Rasmalai



Soan Papdi



Modak



Rabri



Balushahi



Besan Laddu



Shrikhand



Malai Khaja



Boondi



Kalakand



Nankhatai

C45 FEEDING[1]

Mother is there to feed
And to care for every need
of the baby till it can
manage on its own.
Oh! He's now a man!

FEEDING[2]

Feed a dog, you feel happy;
Biscuit or bun makes him lappy.



Give grass to the cow ;
She and you are happy now.
Sometimes give banana to chew;
See the cow eat and mew.



Throw grain on the ground ;
See doves mill around.
They are not afraid of you
Picking, cooing gutter-goo.



A little milk in the basin;
And let your cat in;
Milk in plate, basin or cup
Cat grins, goes slurp, slurp.



Pat went to the horse stand
A lump of jaggery in her hand;
Its tongue was cool as ice
Happiness in horse's eyes.

[lappy- author's word –
from lapping it up
jaggery- more common in India
than sugar-cube]



C46 FLIPPERS SLIPPERS

The group goes on a trek
With local boys as guides
Urbanites with their fancy shoes
Followed the guide whose
Flip-flop slippers splashed
mud even up to his shirt



Soon the slipper top came off
Suppressing his laugh

a follower asked “ how
will you walk now?”

The local Sona was silent
With a sharp stone
pushed the strap back in
Now the trekkers were silent.

Soon a stretch of shallow water
Confronted the group
Sona just waded through
Putting some large stones as he went.



Please take off your shoes
And carry with you
Stones are sharp and narrow
Carefully follow.



Sawaal came and quipped
See slipper never slipped
My feet on the move
On my hand my shoe

Sage Sawaal says :

What seems to be very bad
may truly turn out to be good.
This simple event just says
the rustic have their own ways.

[note; Sona, Sawaal are naughty Intelligent native children]

C47 LIE LIES

Every time I tell a lie

How does mom find out?



“Because it is written in the liar’s eye”

Eye contact that is held for too long is usually contrived and can indicate dishonesty.



Doesn't mom say “Look at me , you lout?”
Your lie lies in your eyes

Eye block – covering your eyes for a second or closing them completely is another sign that someone may be lying.



C48 READ ALOUD

Let children read,
if they can
Let the elders lead ,
in this plan.

Plan is to provide,
a small tool and aid
For every girl or boy
to read, hear, enjoy.

Have you seen a mouse?
It has a moustache.



A moustache on a cat, let me whisper;
It has a special name it is called whisker.
Put cat on your lap and look at its eyes
The colour is like the colour of maize.



See an owl with big round eyes.
Did you see a nose of small size?



Have you seen the peacock dance?
In its fan hundred eyes at a glance.



Have you seen stripes on a zebra?
Saying geometry is easier than algebra.
When looking at a dog



One will not fail

To see its wagging tail
Except when it is sitting like a frog



Frog jumping have you seen?

Frogs croaking louder than a pump
Ten times their length they can jump
Look at the legs and their length
Hind legs longer gives jumping strength.



See the photo of a snake

Do you see any ear ?

Then how do they hear ?

No. They can feel a small shake.



Monkey's tail is longer than its body

Reason is known to nobody

When I see a monkey hanging by its tail
I can tell you the old tail's tale.



C49 BABIES' DAY OUT

Three little children
Set out to walk and run
They wanted to be free
From the rules of nursery

Just then they had had their morning food
Briskly they explored their neighbourhood

They saw the cow and its calf
They saw the hen and her chicken
They saw many fish in the lake
And from far, even a baby snake.



The humans asked the youthful others
About rigorous rules of their mothers
Talk after “How do you do?” s
Yielded the young animals’ views

To the query about the mother
Reply was “We have none other”
“Soon we will be alone
To fend on our own
Till then she is our sole support
For food and shelter like a fort.”

By this time the youngest began to cry
Since she was cold and wet, not dry

If we were in the nursery
We won’t be this hungry
Said simultaneously
all the three

“ Whose idea was it to run away?
Admit it, was it you, hey!”
Asked each other, all three.
Each said “not me, not me “

A senior girl who came in search
of the babies , with a gentle touch
gave water and fruits she brought
“You will be hungry I thought”
She said .

The senior addressed the three run-aways

“ It is time you mend your ways.

I hope a life’s lesson you all learnt

Human infant cannot be

independent.”



Little legless baby fish



Can swim as they wish

Even four-legged infant animal

can move with help minimal

Two-legged bundle of baby chick

can go and its food it can pick.

Human children! How about you?

Helpless you are until age two.

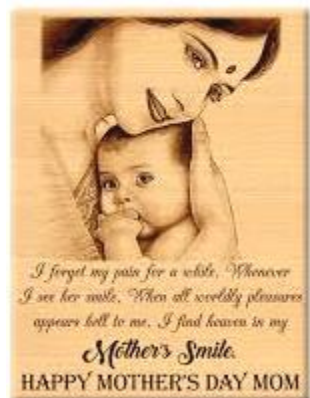


Thank God, caretakers we have

So with mothers let us behave

as nicely as we could

until we earn our own food.



C50 THE BALL [1]

A bat and a ball
In Munna's hand
A shriek to call
his kids' band.



Any road, street or lane
A vacant site fairly plane
Whole day the gang will have a ball
With just a bat and a ball.

[Munna- Hindi , small boy said with love]

THE BALL [2]

A bouncing boy
Bouncing a ball
A mother's joy
For her to recall.



A ball is a ball
All over the world
No matter what you call
it locally by any word.

['chendu' Marathi is a common word for 'ball']

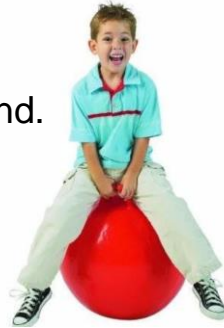
THE BALL [3]

A ball is a sphere
Filled full or hollow
Rolls round everywhere
Making Munna to follow.



When we say ball
the word says it all;
Something smooth and round
inside home or on the ground.

Words, 'boy' and 'ball'
of single syllable
make me miserable
as Time has taken its toll.



Let me not avoid , God forbid,
The ball and the kid
Even if my knee is
affected by arthritis.



C51 RATTLE

Today's search
Is for a rattle
Smooth to touch
And not brittle

Many decades ago
We used to walk and go
To weekly local fairs
Which sold all kinds of wares



Wooden rattle
Bright hollow ball of wood
I wonder how a carver could
Create such a cute piece
No name, no brand, low price.

At much less price
Just for a few *pice*
One made of palm fronds
An art work by skilful hands

Gently put the handle
Of the rattle in the hand
Which remain never idle
See the tight grip like iron band



Does the moving hand shake the toy?
Or does the baby shake it by will?
Either way, smile, laugh, shout, joy
for both young and old as I can tell

[*pice* – old time , 1/100 *th* of a rupee]

C52 DOLLS, TOYS[1]

Dolls, dolls, dolls
The street seller calls
Boy, girl, fat man
Kitchenware, pot, pan



Dolls, dolls, dolls
Vendor's voice calls
Dolls of wood
Sturdy and good
Dolls of cloth and cotton
Can wash if dirty or rotten



Try to put this fat man to sleep
He comes to sit, bouncing with a leap
Olden days I remember sure
It was called a doll from Tanjore



See that colourful girl. She is
Dancing even in gentle breeze.
Thanks to tradition, talent and practice
That went into making that piece.

I want to buy and carry
The elephant with ambary
Sturdy wooden carpentry
From Chennapatna artistry.
Dolls, dolls, dolls



Peddler's loud calls
Go and get one '
Before he is gone.

Dolls, dolls, dolls
Clear and loud calls
Not real it would seem
Scenes seen in my dream



They are just memories of yore
Not heard in our cities any more.

*[note: Tanjore -Thanjavur- a town in south India
Channapatna – another town in South India.
Ambary- seating arrangement on an elephant]
[the author apologises for lack of knowledge of
the rich heritage of other parts of India]*

TOYS, DOLLS [2]

Dolls, dolls, dolls
From exhibition stalls
Big doggies bow wow
Cute cattles meow, meow
Growling monkeys gur..gur
Rolling rabbits rah rah



Dolls, dolls, dolls
From village fair stalls
Dog, cat, monkey, rabbit
But teddy bear is top hit



Teddy bear small, hold it in hand
Teddy bear big, lift it and hug
No need to fear ,
Toy bear mother dear.



Teddy bear is nice
Made of sugar and spice
Teddy bears I have many
They are cute company



I will always care
For my big teddy bear
She eats with me
Idlee and chutney
Even when I go to sleep
Close to me teddy bear I keep



[idlee, chutney- snacks to eat]

C53 COCONUT TREE

[a child speaks to the tree]

Oh coconut! Tall coconut!

You have grown so high!

Were you always going out?

Did you always like the sky?

I did not see anyone give you water

But you carry water on your head

When I am unwell or the sun is hotter

Your juice comes to my sick bed.

Go to the temple with one round coconut

Come back with two white bowls.

Mom grates , puts jaggery and honey

A simple sweet worth any money.

Entering the grove slyly like a thief

My brother knows how to make a rocket

With one finger and a long green leaf

of your tree ; nothing spent from the pocket.

From your leaves brooms thick and strong

Are made by mom and maid if I am not wrong

To sweep away stubborn slippery dirt

Before any child walks and gets hurt.

Nothing is useless nothing is waste
Some for work some for taste
Coconut tree , your every part
Has the virtue of winning my heart.



COCONUT TREE [2]

[Child talking to the tree]

When there is no cow's or powder milk
My mom uses your fruit's grated milk
Coffee made from that, they say, is thick
And tasty. Making also is quick

[Listen to what my professor uncle says :]

Except biologists, others do not know
Coconut milk in the culture medium
Is great for plant cells to grow
Just like animal cells need serum.



C54 GOOD HABITS

'It has to be good'
is today's child theme
To me it would seem
good as it should

It is good to **eat food**
if you get it when you need

Eat food if you are hungry
Share it with other hungry ones
chapatti, rice, bread, buns
are better than jilebi and jangri

To **be healthy** it is good
to eat daily homely food
Fancy food and such muck
certainly affect your stomach
Take pity on your belly
Taste fancy food only occasionally



It is good to **drink water**
filtered cold tepid or hotter
at least two litres a day
whether it is December or May

It is good to **read aloud** or silent
bought borrowed or from library lent
novels poems stories even comics
best is to make a sensible mix.

It is good to **exercise and work out**
for all body types lean or stout
aerobic, yoga, jogging or gym
regularly; not at any fancy or whim

It is good to **share and enjoy**
if you have many chocolates
give and eat with your mates
See it increases the sweetness and joy

It is good to **have a hobby** any
Have a hobby other than the mobile
Make a habit of keeping a diary or file
It is good to write in your own
words, things what you have done'





GOOD HABITS

Eat food	Be healthy	Drink water
Exercise	Read aloud	Share, enjoy
Have a hobby		

C55 HOUSE AND HAIR



Which will you choose
The mouse or the louse
One hiding in the house
The other at the base where hair grows

The mouse can be frightened by a cat
It can be tricked by a trap or bait
The louse has enough around to feed
And make a house and breed.

When mouse becomes mice
It can be in dozens
When louse becomes lice
It can be in hundreds



Lice, the pests, like to fester
Mirthfully migrate to your sister
So, Carefully clean the hair
with a close-teethed comb
unless you prefer to
shave the head like a monk.

Chemicals work against either pest
If scientists certify after some test
Heed your grandma's behest
Being clean is the best.
Keep your house clean
Keep your hair clean

C56 LET US GO touring

Himalaya is a mountain
In the north, very far
One day it is certain
We'll go by plane and car



Chamundi *betta* is a hill
Only 1000 steps in Mysore
Even uncle if he has the will
Can slowly climb, I'm sure



Delhi is too big and *bahut duur*
We won't go without any reason
Equally big is our Bangalore
It is near and nice in any season.

[*Bahut duur* – very far – phrase used in Hindi proverb]

Let us go on a tour
To see Bangalore
Vidan souda ,Viswesvariah museum
Lal baug, bull temple , planetarium

Along with your cousin see Ulsoor
Ask her if she had seen Mysore
If not, invite her just now
and also to come for *dasara* show.

[*dasara*- a festival of 9-10 days-

Also called *navaraatri*- Mysore is famous for]





C57 CRANE MEME

Crane, Oh crane!
Where did you learn?
You stand, you meditate
You know soon or late
What you want you will get.

For saying happy
I have the 'smilie'
For showing patience
Do we have signs?

So far none .
You are the one.
My uncle says so
What a joke, ho ho !
You, looking like a stick
For a mood, get a tick
Ha! Ha!

If it is not a stick
But a leg, quick!
Get up and show
Let us all know.

Uncle says :

Be calm do your work, you'll get
what you want, till then wait



Will be the message of 'stick'
Be calm, be patient , and stick
to your goal. Meanwhile
Unlike the crane, smile.

Child says:

I laughed at you ; I am sorry crane
I tried to pull your leg; I was insane
You full of patience, perseverance
A symbol worth our reverence.



*[aunty says uncle has stolen
from the old Tamil poem:]*



*Odu meen Oda uRu meen varum aLavum
Vaadi irukkumaam kokku]*

*[author says: sorry I put big words in child's mouth-
elders please simplify and explain]*

C58 TO CRAWLERS

[Man to his child:]

You are found
Lying on the ground
Always supine or prone
Though you have grown
to two feet in length
and perhaps in strength
It is time to get up
Let me see if I can help

Hands and knees on the floor
You now need support of four
Will you get up and stand
If I strongly held your hand ?



I wish you can soon get up
And stand on two feet of yours
Child of human! Aren't you fed up
Crawling, like a monkey, on all fours?



Hold on to my hand like this
And go left, right, forward
Don't worry, if a step, you miss
But don't lean or fall backward

[Mother comes:]

Oho, Munna's father!
Why do you bother?

In a few month's time
He will mimic and mime
Your drunken tottering gait
You just have to wait



Fathers usually do not care
Or for any big event unaware
When once they come to see
They unnecessarily worry.

What do even dutiful fathers know
Have they seen any child grow ?
From sitting to creep and crawl
Munna has gone through it all

Now comes dad and wants
The child to walk ; and he taunts
Munna who is not yet two
Soon will be a toddler too

C59 BEACH

The beach in Nice
They say is nice
Any sand is good .
If you have never stood
On a sandy beach
It's the next place to reach.



C60 SAND IN HAND

Sand in hand
build something grand
Pyramids and castles
houses without hassles

Long long roads
temples with gods
Mountains in a row
grass on trees that grow

Tiny hands can make
many shapes and break
Create and or destroy
is all game like toy
Let no one chide
an imaginative child

Set a child in the midst of sand and rest
Come and see creative art at its best.



C61 SAND[1]

Seaside sand and beach
For many it is out of reach
But if you live near the sea
Take all the children and me.

Walk on sand; wade in water;
Sit on sand; stand in water.

Let waves wash your feet
Sandy, salty water but neat ;
Waves want to play
Touch you and go away.

Don't chase the tide
Some waves are naughty
Somewhere they hide
Suddenly come, high and mighty.

Draw smilies on the wet shore
Let waves come and erase. More
You can draw all along sand
Let waves come hand in hand.

Beach is full of sand
Let Sonu take it in her hand
Don't stop yourself or children
From touching sand which is fun.

[note: smily- smilies – drawings usually made by children]



C62 SAND[2]

Let elders join
in 'hide-a coin'
Needs sand a basinful
stealing that is not sinful

Sand box in pre-school
whose idea, quite cool.
Jump into the sand-pit
stand barefoot or just sit .

Plastic water pool
is as fun and as cool
As sand pit; jump in it;
wade barefoot or just sit.

Beach, sand, water
found plenty in nature
Fun for children is free
Like a swing on a tree.



C63 [THE] CROW

*[the child speaker may not know Tamil Thirukkural
But the author of the poem knows]*

Uncle took a ball of cooked rice
Went to the terrace, kept on a precipice
In his hoarse voice called ka..ka thrice
Ritual or not feeding birds is nice.

From nowhere, oh friendly crow, I see you come
First to arrive was you and then some
of your kith and kin
Now begins the din

I can hear your kaav..kaavs clear
Did you say what I guessed you said
“Ye all crows, ye all hear me, hear
A ball of rice is here, near me, here.

Can I call you chief crower ?
Were you once a town crier?
Hey, crow! Did you cry “hear me?
What did I find? Come near and see”

GENERAL

Crow's call invites all of kin
No selfish stealth, personal gain
"Come and share
Enough to spare"

I like the crow , the crier
That says "the more the merrier"

[note

crower- author's word – doer noun]



C64 “KEEP THIS PLACE .. LEAN”

Let me do something new
Every day, from today.

“Keep this place clean”
Is a universal statement
Quite often it is seen
Near a dirty pavement.

On the footpath where children walk
I sat with a piece of chalk;
In capital letters I wrote
this simple meaningful note.

I just watched from my window
The people walking by;
Nothing happened until now,
No one stopped, girl or guy.

Time for primary classes to end
Chirping, jumping children run.
Some of the tiny tots bend,
They thought reading this was fun.

“Wrong, wrong “cries one
Another finds a bit of chalk
I purposely left on the walk,
“See, see now it is done “

The missing 'C' was supplied
On the last word by the bold child.
Only a child seemed to dare
To say the emperor was bare;

*Curious childhood is gone
As time passes on.
Growing up makes one mature
And kills the senses given by nature.*

[True event written in verse]



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C65 PARK SCENE

Let us go to the park
Come back before it is dark
We can walk to the park
We can walk thro' the park

We can sit and rest
On the grass is the best
But first see it is not wet



Alone or together run, run
Or catch those who run
Either way it is fun
for both mom and the young one.

See swing going up and down
Smoothly in an upward looking arc
See-saw too goes up and down
Like a clock tic-toc . tic-toc



Climb the steps of the ladder slow
Whirr! Down the slide you go
Careful, there are other children below
Up, down. Umpteen times. Good show.

Turn-table turns, turns;
Child to push with foot learns ;
For speed, mom, you too push
Everyone glad, gleeful, *khush*. [khush- Hindi- happy]



C66 , GR19 *PLAY ON THE WORD ‘play’*

1. We are the students who have come to play
We like to play - play the game of -----xx--

Put xx = cricket, volleyball, basketball.

Football. Badminton

Tennis, khokho, kabaddi.

[all Action]

2. We are the students who have come to play
We like to play - play on the -----yy----

Put yy= violin, veena. tabla, drum,
guitar, keyboard, flute, any other

[all Action and sound]

[Copy the tune of “ *we are the school girls who
are camping out*”]



C67 SKILLED[!] LITTLE BOY

They declared a contest
To identify and test
The person with great skill
As well as a strong will.

They gave many titles to pick
What was my choice of topic ?
I chose 'killing time' as the theme
Since I can win alone or as a team.

Kill time by counting sheep
Before sleep
Pass time watching sit-com
Eating popcorn
Waste time playing patience
More than once



Spend time narrating stories
Of old memories.
All these ideas the jury heard
And then said



None of these will do .
Killer of time is not you
For, the title is already won
By the little boy who has done
The great feat
To soundly beat

All other players in the game
On his mobile, car race done
One thousand times the same
race , winning not even one.



C68 TEEN GAMES

IT IS FUN TO be at a distance
And watch what teens invent

Does a teacher teach? Yes
Does a preacher preach? Yes
Does a driver drive? Yes
Does a prayer pray? I don't know

Now we will play *anthakshari*.
A river does not rive. It flows.
A flower does not flow. It blooms.
A bloomer does not bloom. It makes mistakes

Butter does not butt. It cooks .
A cooker does not cook. It whistles
A whistler does not whistle. He discloses

Does a letter let something? No
Does a gutter gut? No
Does a crater crate? No

When I see the games teens invent
It seems to me that they go to a convent
My teacher sister says, no
What they do they know

See first set was all yes reply
Doer noun ending with ..er
Not always. Some are
Odd and funny words worth
A game for fun and mirth.

*[Notes: convent school - schools in India
having better level of English since
traditionally their medium of instruction was English
anthakshari – game in which the last letter or word is
used by the next person to start his word, sentence or
song]*



C69 WIND [PARODY]

Who can stop the wind?
Neither you nor I
To the query put your mind
Ask yourself, why should I try?

Who can stop the wind?
Neither I nor you
On further thinking you will find
: " why stop, let it pass through"

Who can stop the wind?
Neither you, I nor anyone
Even if it is not mild and kind
Wait, soon it will be gone.

[the original poem:

Who Has Seen the Wind? Christina Rossetti - 1830-1894]

*Who has seen the wind?
Neither I nor you.
But when the leaves hang trembling,
The wind is passing through.*

*Who has seen the wind?
Neither you nor I.
But when the trees bow down their heads,
The wind is passing by.]*



C70 WINDOWS [1]

Moving air is wind
welcome the air in
Keep open the window
feel the wind ..oh!

Let hot air get out
let cool air come inside
Let not windows be shut
lucky , in India , we reside.

Go run and occupy
window seat in train
Easy from vendors to buy
see scenery , new terrain

From window never put
hand or head out
No pouring water or spit
no one should be hurt

Throw nothing out of the window or spit
Such habit everyone must quit
The habit is as ugly as dirt
What if some walker gets hurt?

Wind the window down
while driving out of town
Let the rustic air rush in
let good feeling gush in



C71 WINDOW [2]

Let the wind blow
helping the air flow
Hope the incoming air is fresh
Add fragrance to us and refresh
Keep your window to the world open
With new ideas, let your mind sharpen

Let new ideas flow
helping me to grow
Hope the incoming thoughts are better
Than what I've, in both spirit and letter.

Fresh air comes in ; good!
For our lungs it is food
Good air comes with good smell
Breathe deeply and feel well



C72 MY VILLAGE

**Being a child in my village
Was not just life but a privilege**

No one went hungry
without morning *naashta*

At home eat *idli*
or *idiappam* alias pasta

[*naashta*- snack, *tiffin*

Idli, idiappam- names of snacks]

From any other house in the street
Any other child whom you meet
is a friend, So you two eat
at a third house where great
is the grandma as well as the eats .



**Being a child in my village
Was not just life but a privilege**
When a holiday is declared suddenly\
We didn't come home and sit idly
Go to the garden grove of the *zamindar*

Whose farmhouse was not far
Make the pumpset on
Meet the mighty rain head-on
No sprinkle; solid shower was fun
Clothes can dry in the southern sun.
Or go to the local water-lift which is ready
Pour water on yourself and buddy
[zamindar- landlord, rich man]



In any landlord's house any function
It is assumed , needed no invitation
All of us will be there at the venue
suggesting items for the menu
children's line for the feast
will be long but all will have seat
having eaten each will have a package
for those who couldn't come due to old age

Ladies planning to go to town
will make the news known
to us children who can be
used for errands and also company

We too would be willing and happy
since we eat at a hotel and see a movie.



Being a child in my village Was not just life but a privilege

No difference among children
But when it came to gender
Each will have their own fun
Since group games will differ.
Nevertheless village life was a privilege
For boys or girls of tender age.

Whether villages and life there
Are the same as before or not
When I talk to you from my easy chair
Memories come which I never forgot.

C73 OUTSIDE AIISH

SH is speech and hearing
HH is hard of hearing
Or hearing handicapped
A child is smiling
A vehicle's horn is blaring
The lady with the child
must be fit and alert
And certainly not another HH
Am I asking for too much?



No. Not at all if HH were rare
But if it is hereditary, genetic
And thanks to parents, one or pair
Even simple tasks will be frenetic
Who will educate the horn- blower
And ask him to stop and go slower?

[note: AIISH .- All India Institute Of Speech And Hearing]



C74 OFF-LOADED- WHEN?

I took his load
He happily ran ahead.
I couldn't keep up .
Or didn't I want to?
So, I gave him half his load.
Even that was enough to make him stoop.
Now,
Equal we are in load and stride and in slow
'progress!'
Gone is his gambol
Gone is his childhood.

Alas! If only I could get
The load off both of us,
We may even try a little
Hopping and jumping together.
But even if I could, I dare not to
Get the load off both of us.

Free of the load
We may hop and jump
We may stand and stare
Walk free, think free, live free
But that will not be called
academic or any kind of achievement.

Some day, even if I did dare
To get the load off both of us
Who knows?

Both of us may be **off-loaded** by the system
which is heavily loaded
against non-achievers.



C75 STARS, CLOUDS AND TRICKS

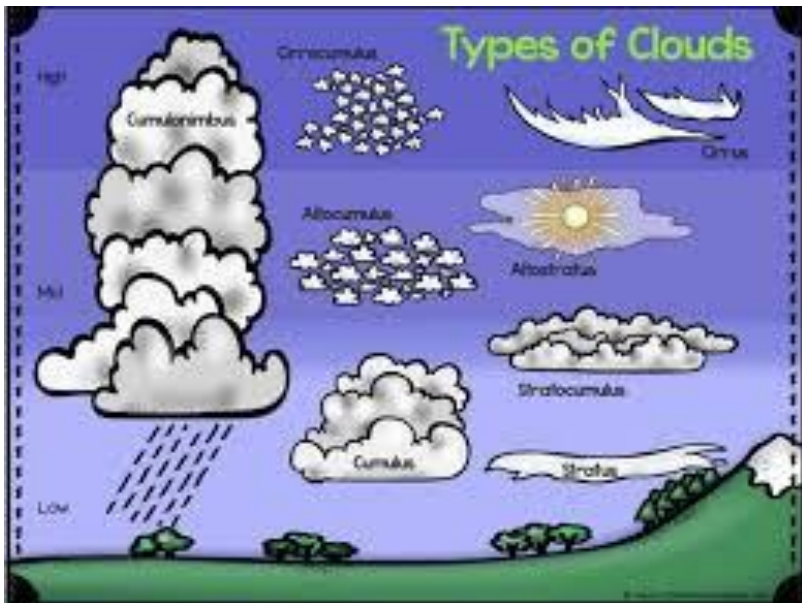
Have you ever lain supine



And looked up at the open sky?
If you do, you will find
Strange images which float or fly.

Were these images always present?
Or do they get formed as I lie
Down here to relax and rest ?
Are they real or just illusion and lie ?

Are the clouds treating me as a toy
Playing tricks on me from up on high
As if dragged by a kite -flying boy
I can't run and catch ,
Since they are high up on the sky.



C76 MOON MY FRIEND

[CHILD TO THE MOON]



O moon! Are you my friend?
When I walk, you follow
You follow if I am slow
When I run you too run

Sometimes I am fast
Yet you are not lost
When I sit and look up
You too stroll down and up

I just fell down , why?
I was looking at the sky

Oops! said the moon and stopped
To look down he stooped
He cannot come down to pick me up
He has to be up above
to be visible to all the children of the earth

C77 O! CHANDRA, SKY CHANDRA!

[GRANDMA TO THE MOON]

O Chandra sky Chandra
This is Chandra my Chandra
My grandson smiles, he is bright;
You too are bright, why won't you smile?

You are jealous, O! Chandra of the sky,
Of my little one, eying him on the sly.

Because, o full moon! You know
That my grandchild will grow
While you will wane in a fortnight
Making the sky dark only with starlight

Whether you smile or not
Your strength you never forgot
To recover with strong will
To slowly grow full from nil.



He was named Chandra after you
For your cyclic life and skill
Even on a new moon day you knew
“I will bounce back to become full”

When I'm gone you 'll be there
Teach my Chandra in his dark hour
To slowly grow and never forego the fight
That one day will be his , full and bright.



C78 SUMMER

Summer in south India is hot
Except for foreigners, locals do not
Stir out or reach the beach at noon.
Even if they go in the morn return soon.

River bath is cool, not sun-bathing
Sitting in the shade with juice is soothing

It is tough for us, parents say ,
To care for children in the month of May

Store plenty of buttermilk during the day
To keep dehydration and diseases away



C79 SUMMER AND MONSOON

The sun is fun for the western world
They can even slumber
On the beach in summer

Heat in Indian summer is too much
Even for us to bear it as such
If you have not heard of sun stroke
Come to the south in May and look

Summer sun or monsoon rain
They are with us
as tropical life's plus

We really have no reason
To avoid or hate any season

Our region's sunshine
Is like, after 8 comes nine

So too, we like the monsoon rain
Even if it pours again and again

When it is mild rain
Find a tree like the banyan
Under whose shade
A camp can be made.



When it is hot sun at noon
Get to the banyan tree soon
where men cattle any can rest
until afternoon heat is less



When it is hot don't be fussy
Mom is ready with buttermilk and lassi
Just wait till it becomes cool
inside the house or at school

Our elders lived under the sun
I will also learn, be a true son
We all venerate our guruji
who said: "Surya is our energy."

[notes:

Surya – the sun

Buttermilk- diluted curd usually with salt

Lassi - diluted curd sweetened with sugar]



C80 WINTER

Winter is cold in Jan
But in daytime it is nice
Children in cold countries can
Go play in snow and ice

Ice I have once seen
After it rained stones of hails
Snow it was on TV screen
Whenever reception fails

But in winter we can
Go out, walk in the sun
Primary schools also plan
Outdoor classes which is fun

Winter vegetables are fresh
Carrots, beans, peas, radish
All tender, plenty and heaps
Farmers selling them cheap



Cut and eat them raw
Tasty natural salad
One old man I saw
Ate away half his head load
Three months around December
In India it is time to travel
Tourists carry mementos to remember
We sure looked after our guests very well

Hot tea brewing in a pot
Covered fully by a tea-cosy
We drink shamelessly a lot
Feel the insides warm and cosy



Men sat around a fire
Warming their toes and fingers
As flames reach higher
They attract dancers and singers



Winter is fun also indoor
Rotis and naans from *tandoor*
 Butter melts on *masala dosa*
 Guests bite into *pakora and samosa*
 [all names of snacks]



Of course winter wind is chill
 We in the south can manage it still
 Scarf, muffler, cap, shawl
 Woollen items come out all
 Parents are great
 They fill my plate
 With *mutter* and butter
 With roti and *boti*
 With rice and spice
 [*mutter-peas* *Boti- a crisp frie snack*]

Parents are great
 When I felt cold and shivered
 They keep me warm and covered

C81 MONSOON IN MYSORE

Gentle rainfall
is liked by us all
Rain, rain don't go
we want to get wet so

Raindrops fall in a line like a thread
Wind splashes it on me, and I am afraid

Raindrops on the tin roof
Compose a rhythmic song
Villain wind blowing – poof
And see who are coming along

Here comes lightning- flash, flash
Don't look, it is frightening –flash
Soon comes the thunder, boom, boom
It is shaking the ground under- boom

Splash, flash, boom, vroom
Light and sound! What a show!
What was the result , do you know?

All children pulled into the hall
Closed were windows, vents all
Grandpa saying *gayatri* mantra
No one making exit or entra
Bundled safely was the crying baby
Into the cot smelling of *Nilgiri*

[notes: mantra- chant by Hindus
Entra- short form for entrance
Nilgiri- eucalyptus oil – used for cold]

We all waited for the rain to stop
For urgent needs we have the corner shop
After a severe thunderstorm in Mysore
the roads would be blocked , I am sure

The whole town without power
Fallen branches or full trees all over
Among the crowd and chaos I could
see a silver lining in the dark cloud

Local poor get free firewood
for heating *handas* of hot water
Self-sustaining is this neighbourhood
picking up pieces after a minor disaster

[note: *handa*- vessel for heating water for bath]

Thunderstorm and heavy rain are no fun
Soon we welcome the warmth-giving sun
After a bad event, children learn
early in life to expect a good turn

Except at times when it becomes wild
rain in Mysore is always mild
But that day teaches us not to worry
life is not always hunky –dory.



C82 FROG IN THE WELL, SICK

A frog in the well
Became quite unwell
As she lay sick
She made some music
Went cric- crock cric crock
Like the clock- tic tock tic tock

Doctor frog came and saw
‘Open your mouth and say aah!’”

“It is red and swollen
Under the tongue keep this fern
as you lie, to the left turn
And be so till I return “

When the good doc came back
It was still cric crock cric crock
“Why? Did you not get back your voice?”
“Yes I did. But it feels nice to make noise”



C82 TOAD IN THE WELL, UNWELL

A toad in the well
Became quite unwell
Yelled and made terrible din
Like rain on a roof of tin
Crawk croak ; crawk croak
Each yell like a hammer stroke

Doctor frog came and saw
‘Open your mouth and say aah!’
” Your throat is swollen and red
You should be in your bed
“How long doctor?”
“Until the day after;
Don’t worry, time will fly”
“Fly! Can I catch as I lie?”
“No. No non-veg; To your left you turn
And under the tongue keep this fern “



C83 TADPOLES IN TROUBLE

One hundred tadpoles in the well
together started to yell
our mouths are swollen
We can't eat even pollen
How can we survive?
We need fungi and algae.

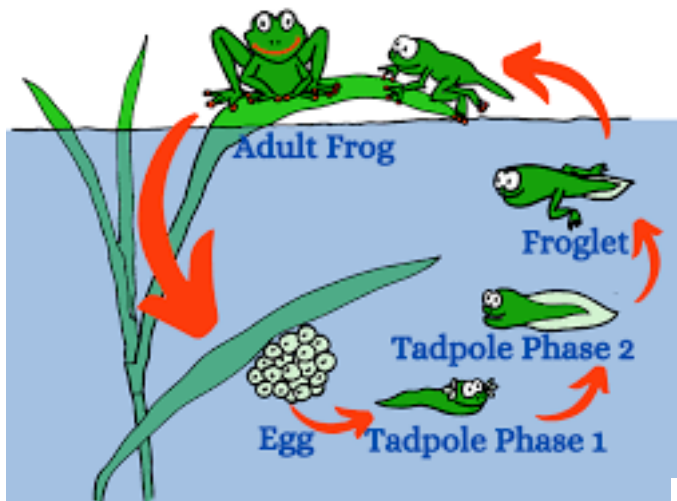
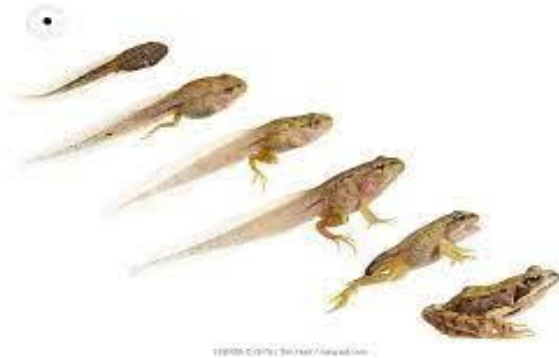
Surgeon frog was summoned
He came, saw, was stunned
To find the reason for their ache
Forked tongues like that of a snake
Any deformity in childhood is a curse
When you grow up it will become worse
I can perform an operation
But I need your mother's permission.

When the mother who had complained
came, to her the surgeon explained
“ I see in all the hundred of your product
I diagnose the same congenital defect
I can cure if you the mother does not object

All of you children, hear!
Other tadpoles too don't fear
You have yet to grow feet

If I cut your tongue neat
It will grow along with the rest
So surgery now is the best

You are young you have good chance
“Thank you doctor, thanks in advance “
Mother and children said in unison
The well is being readied for the operation.



C85 RIDDLES

1. The first letter of my name is S
I am round in shape
I give you heat and light Who am I?
[from a school test, 5th std, Karnataka]

2. My first letter is O
My friend's is M
We grow on trees Who are we?
[from a school test, 5th std, Karnataka]

3. It is from Kashmir.
Its house is on a tree.
Name starts with A What is it?

4. A long blue saree
Alas! A lot of holes
Holes are bright and shining
The horizon is its lining
[a traditional riddle in all Indian languages]

5. It has four legs and a back
You can comfortably sit on it . What is it?
[clue: if no back it will be a "stool"]

6. When mother stands it is not there.
When she sits it comes.
A baby can sleep in it ?



[Answers :6 pal 5 riahc 4 yks eht 3
elppa 2 ognam, egnaro 1 nus eht]

Everyone knows this :
Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall;
All the king's horses and all the king's men
Couldn't put Humpty together again.

Who is Humpty Dumpty?



MORE RIDDLES

I'm orange, I wear a green hat and I sound like a parrot. What am I? Ans:.CARROT

What has hands, but can't clap?Ans: A clock

YOU CAN MAKE MANY SUCH RIDDLES YOURSELF ON CLOCK ITSELF

SIMILAR OTHER PAIRS :

EYE AND NEEDLE EAR AND CORN MOUTH AND RIVER

RUN AND WATER TEETH AND COMB LEGS AND TABLE

MANY BASED ON DICTIONARY

How can you make seven even? Ans: Remove s

[REAL ANS IS ADD OR SUBTRACT 1 [ONE]

What goes up but never comes down?Ans: Your age

SUNDAY MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS ETC.
REGULARLY PUBLISH RIDDLES ALONG WITH
CROSSWORD, SUDOKU ETC. OF COURSE, THE WEB
HAS MANY. MY [THE AUHOR'S] SUGGESTION:
WRITE YOUR OWN –IF YOU TELL 10 BITS TO 10
PERSONS ONE [PERSON] MAY LIKE ONE [ITEM] HE
OR SHE IS YOUR TRUE FRIEND.

C86 VIPs ON THE STAGE

Listen children
A group is singing
It is a *raga*; it is a tune ;
It is by a *dasa*; it is a poem.

Listen to the group
Synchronously singing
You can see them you can hear them
They cannot see you or one another
Because they are all blind.

At the end. Clap and applaud
Stand up and applaud
They can't see
But they can hear
So, applaud, clap, cheer

We can see, hear and speak
Can we sing/? Why ask let us try
Let us learn from
The great group of VI singers

[VIP- visually impaired persons]

Sawaal asks; how about HH?
Sonu: what is HH?
Don't you know – it is hearing handicap
[Uncle said :]

Watch the stage children
A group is dancing
It is classical; it is spiritual ;
It is by a *dasa*; it is a poem.



Watch the group
Synchronous steps
You can see them you can hear them
They cannot hear you or the music
Because they are all deaf



At the end. clap and applaud
Stand up and applaud
They can't hear
But they can see
So, applaud, clap, cheer

We can see, hear and speak
Can we sing? Dance? Why ask let us try.
Let us learn from
The great group of
VI singers HH dancers
*[Sonu, Sawaal – children
Sawaal is elder- fond of asking questions]
DASA- a pious , wise person
HH- hearing handicapped]*



THE 8TH ANNUAL BAY AREA INTERNATIONAL DEAF DANCE FESTIVAL

 **COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS DAY 1: FRIDAY, AUGUST 14** 

10-11 AM PST
DANCE BY HEART
WITH TUNE OF INDIAN CLASSICAL AND FOLK MUSIC

11 AM - 12 PM PST
INTRODUCTION TO FLAMENCO


SHOUTI KRUGER AND MEENA QURESHI
(INFORMAL)


WIT SPECKTOR
(JAZZ)

CA7 TELUGU LULLABY

Chandamaama Raave

Come Sweet Moon

Chandamaama raave, jaabilli raave
Kondekki raave, koti poolu theve.
Bandekki raave, banti poolu theve
Theru meeda raave, thene pattu theve.
Pallaki lo raave paalu perugu theve
Parugetti raave, panasa pandu theve.
Naa maata vinave, nattinta pettave
Annee theve abbayiki iyyave!

Come moon, come sweet moon
Come over the hill, bring a million flowers.
Come on a chariot, bring a bunch of Marigolds
Come over the brook, bring a comb of honey.
Come on a palanquin, bring milk and curd
Come on running, bring a Jackfruit.
Now listen to me and keep them here right
Bring them all for
baby's delight!

Come down moon come gracefully and soon
Come over the hill bring what you will
Come by a coach bring a beautiful broach
Come by the river carry honey and sugar
Come by palanquin bring a biscuit tin
Now you me hear do this all for dear
Bouncy baby's sake don't forget birthday cake.

Our readers will know that the initial word of each line rhyming is the hall mark of poetry in south Indian languages. In many stanzas alliteration [i.e. same letter or sound] in each line is also used to enhance the quality of the poems. If the poem is mainly meant for singing [or reading and listening] line-ending rhyme is preferred and is very effective. [persons fond of '*Kavi sammelans*' and *Mushairas*' will agree.]

Here the structure [i.e. syntax] of Telugu language helps in final rhyming. In other words the verb [predicate] coming at the end of a sentence as per grammar structure helps to make rhymes. Observe '*raave*' *theve*'

The poet additionally used alliteration in each line.

We [this author] have used end-of-the foot rhyme. Instead of exact translation of each word the general theme of the lullaby is maintained. Viz. The moon is asked to bring child-related objects.

OF COURSE, SING, DANCE C86 NO MATTER
DONKEY'S VOICE OR MONKEY'S STEPS

AIISH C73
ANIMALS C49, C45, C48
ANTHAKSHARI C68
ART C42, C59
BABY C4
BALL C50
BANGALORE C56
BEACH C59
BROOM C53
CELL CULTURE C53

CHENNAPATNA C52
CLOUDS C75
CRANE C57
CRAWL C58
CROW C63
DASA C86
DEEPAVALI C43, C44
DOLLS C52
EMPEROR C64
FEEDING C45

FROG C82
GAMES C66, C67, C68
GRAMMAR C68, C66
HABITS C54
HAIR C55
HANDA C81
HH C73, C86 VIP C86
HINDI C56
HOUSE C55
JANATA NAGAR C49

KANNADA C81
LAMPS C44
LASSI C79
LIES C47
LIFE CYCLE C84
LOUSE C55

MARATHI C50
MEME C57
MOBILE C67
MOON C76, C77
MOUSE C55
MUSIC C66
MYSORE C41, C56, C81
NURSERY C49
PARK C65
PLAY C66

RATTLE C51
READ C48
RIDDLES C85
ROSSETTI C69
SAND C60, C61, C62
SEASONS C78, C79, C80, C81
SLIPPERS C46
SNACKS C80
SWEETS C44
TADPOLE C84

TAMIL C57, C63
TANJORE C52
TEEN C68
TELUGU CA7
THIRUKKURAL
TOAD C83
TOYS C52
TREE, COCONUT C53
TRUE EVENT C64
VILLAGE C72

WATER-LIFT C72
WAVES C61
WIND C69
WINDOW C70, C71
ZAMINDAR C72

We humbly request ALL the elders_in the family_to learn, teach, play_ with the children [in your own family OR from the neighbourhood]. This also means you allow your children and others let their children mix, play, have fun , interact.

ANTHAKSHARI C68, RUN CATCH, JUMP,
FLIP [IF POSSIBLE AND WITH PRECAUTIONS].,
MOCK FIGHT , PILLOW FIGHT, GAMES IN THE PARK,
HIDE AND SEEK, RIDE AN ELDER,
HORSE RIDE ON A STICK, HIDE A COIN IN
SAND,MIME, MIMIC SOUNDS [OF ANIMALS BIRDS] ,
HOP CATCH, BALL GAMES, RIDDLES,
ANY SIMPLE BOARD GAMES, TIC-TAC-TOE-,
SCISSORS-STONE-PAPER, SIMPLE RACE, PICK A
LETTER [FROM AN ADVT OR A PAGE],
DRAW WHAT YOU LIKE [STARTING WITH A LINE,
CIRCLE, TRIANGLE, SQUARE]

IN SHORT KEEP YOURSELF AND CHILDREN
AWAY FROM ADDICTIVE SMART PHONE
HABITS AND HAVE FUN