

Vanishing Tricks

Vowels

Take a look the text below. It's called **Vnng**:

Vnng

Th dy s pst, th sn s st, nd th wht strs r n th sky; whl th lng grss wth
dw s wt, nd thrgh th r th bts nw fly.

Can you work out some of the words? It would be much easier to read if all the **vowels** hadn't vanished! It shows how important vowels are. There are only five of them, but they do so much work: they appear in almost every word in the English language and they have to make 20 different sounds for us.

All those words make a four-line verse to a poem called 'Evening'. The poem has six verses all together, made entirely of one-syllable words. Clever!

Lines 1 and 3 and lines 2 and 4 rhyme. Can you spot the line breaks? Have a go at writing the verse out with all its vowels and in four rhymed lines. Try not to look but it is printed at the foot of this page for you to check. The poem was written by Thomas Miller, a nineteenth century writer born in Lincolnshire, who left school aged just nine years.

Now it's your turn

This is a good game to work on with a partner. It's even better if you can get another pair to compete against!

- * The first thing you have to do is find a short poem, or one verse from a longer one to work on. You need 4–6 lines and the lines should end-rhyme – the rhyming words being the last word on each line.
- * Copy out your chosen lines, with its title, leaving out all the vowels as you do so. And of course, write it as prose, with none of the poem's line-breaks. Include all the punctuation.
- * Each pair should have a different poem to copy and when you are all ready, swap papers to see who can correctly insert all the vowels and set the poem out in its proper lines.

The day is past, the sun is set,
And the white stars are in the sky:
While the long grass with dew is wet,
And through the air the bats now fly.