# Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## What to do today:

- 1. Read the first part of the poem 'Skimbleshanks'
  - How easy is it to read?
  - Underline any tricky vocabulary.
  - Can you practise reading so that you can find the rhythm of the poem?
- 2. Listen to two performances of the poem.
  - Play the first part of each of these performances. Follow the words as you do.
  - What are some of the differences between the two performances?
  - Which do you prefer? Why?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLEEeHj6e Y

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKY5ag8qhlQ

- 3. Practise parentheses
  - Use the Revision Card to remind yourself about commas, brackets and dashes for parentheses.
  - Complete Skimbleshanks Sentences 1, 2 and 3. They get harder, so challenge yourself to keep going!

### 1. Skimbleshanks – Part 1

There's a whisper down the line at 11.39

When the Night Mail's ready to depart,

Saying "Skimble where is Skimble has he gone to hunt the thimble?

We must find him or the train can't start."

All the guards and all the porters and the stationmaster's daughters

They are searching high and low,

Saying "Skimble where is Skimble for unless he's very nimble

Then the Night Mail just can't go." At 11.42 then the signal's nearly due

And the passengers are frantic to a man -

Then Skimble will appear and he'll saunter to the rear:

He's been busy in the luggage van!

He gives one flash of his glass-green eyes

And the signal goes "All Clear!"

And we're off at last for the northern part

Of the Northern Hemisphere!

You may say that by and large it is Skimble who's in charge Of the Sleeping Car Express.

From the driver and the guards to the bagmen playing cards He will supervise them all, more or less.

Down the corridor he paces and examines all the faces

Of the travellers in the First and the Third;

He establishes control by a regular patrol



And he'd know at once if anything occurred.

He will watch you without winking and he sees what you are thinking And it's certain that he doesn't approve

Of hilarity and riot, so the folk are very quiet

When Skimble is about and on the move.

You can play no pranks with Skimbleshanks!

He's a Cat that cannot be ignored;

nothing goes wrong on the Northern Mail

When Skimbleshanks is aboard.

By TS Eliot

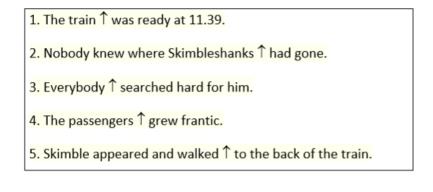
# 2. Revision Cards



#### 3. Skimbleshanks Sentences 1

Skimbleshanks (who likes a drop of whisky in his tea) never stops watching.

- Add information to these sentences, using parenthesis.
- Put the extra information in the place marked with an arrow.
- Choose punctuation to make your addition clear.
- There are suggestions (underneath) of phrases to add.
- Be careful, because these suggestions are in the wrong order.



### Suggested Phrases

- sauntering calmly
- who were waiting inside the train
- the cat of the railway train
- which was full of passengers
- even the stationmaster's daughters

### 3. Skimbleshanks Sentences 2

- Add information to these sentences using parenthesis.
- You will have to decide where to put the extra information.
- Choose punctuation to make your addition clear.
- There are suggestions (underneath) of phrases to add. They are in the right order.
- 1. Skimbleshanks gave a flash of his eyes to set the train going.
- 2. The driver watched for the signal then started the journey
- 3. The train was travelling to the north through the night
- 4. Everybody respects Skimbleshanks.
- 5. Skimbleshanks patrols the corridors

## Suggested Phrases

glass-green and bright in order to be safe to Scotland drivers, guards and bagmen establishing control as he goes

### 3. Skimbleshanks Sentences 3

- Add information to these sentences, using parenthesis.
- You will have to decide what extra information to add and where, in the sentence, to add it.
- Choose punctuation to make your addition clear.
- 1. Skimbleshanks can see what you are thinking.
- 2. Everybody stays very quiet.
- 3. Pranks are not allowed.
- 4. Ignoring Skimbleshanks is not possible.
- 5. Nothing goes wrong on the Northern Mail.

Make up some sentences (including parenthesis) of your own about Skimbleshanks.

Email me for any support or feedback!

WDV.Year5@oasiswoodview.org