

Don't Worry, Be Happy



Understanding an author's purpose when writing will make appreciating literature easier for the reader. Authors have a purpose when writing such as to **inform** (give readers facts), to **persuade** (convince readers to do or believe something), or to **entertain** (tell an interesting story).

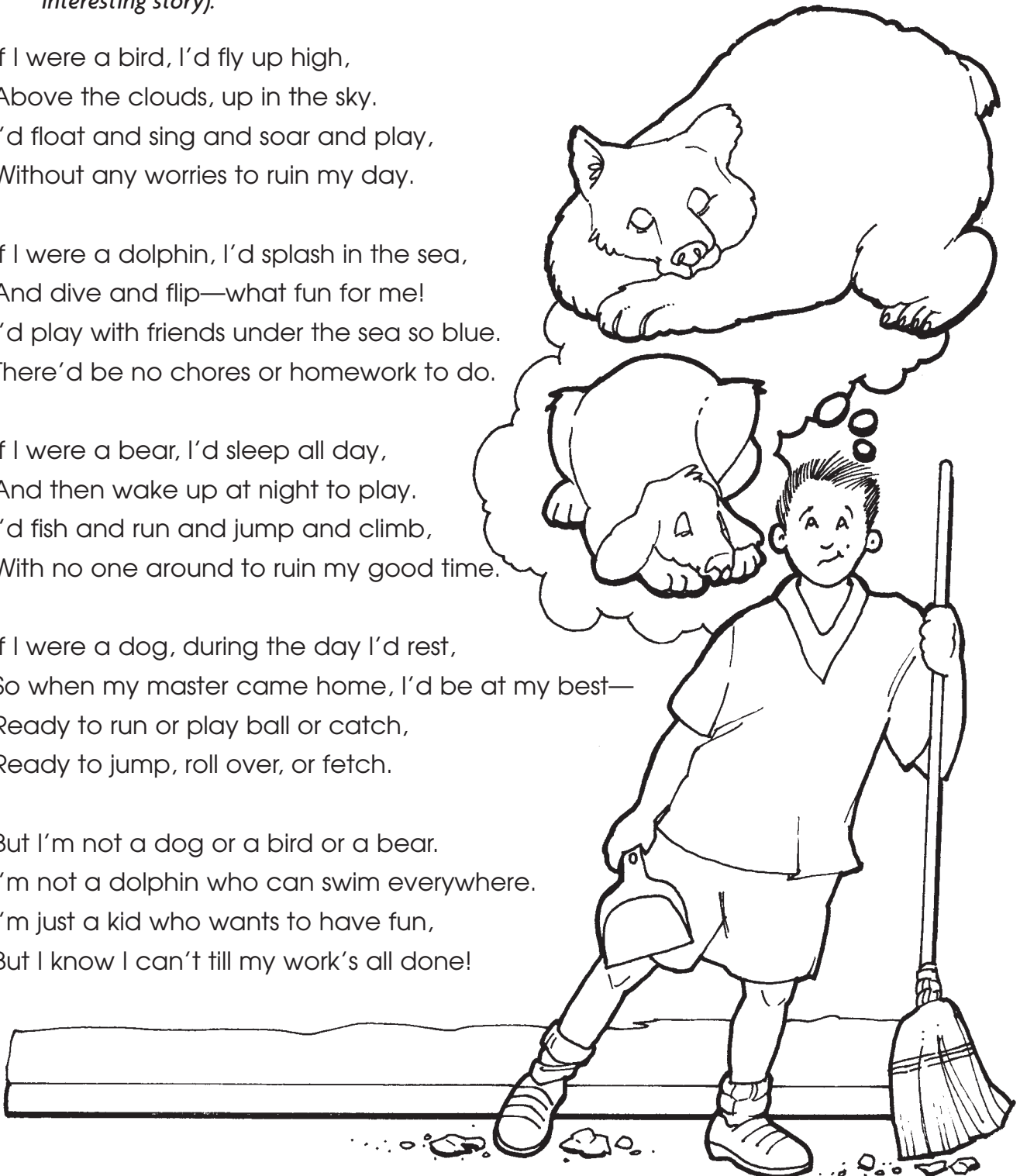
If I were a bird, I'd fly up high,
Above the clouds, up in the sky.
I'd float and sing and soar and play,
Without any worries to ruin my day.

If I were a dolphin, I'd splash in the sea,
And dive and flip—what fun for me!
I'd play with friends under the sea so blue.
There'd be no chores or homework to do.

If I were a bear, I'd sleep all day,
And then wake up at night to play.
I'd fish and run and jump and climb,
With no one around to ruin my good time.

If I were a dog, during the day I'd rest,
So when my master came home, I'd be at my best—
Ready to run or play ball or catch,
Ready to jump, roll over, or fetch.

But I'm not a dog or a bird or a bear.
I'm not a dolphin who can swim everywhere.
I'm just a kid who wants to have fun,
But I know I can't till my work's all done!





1. Circle why you think the author wrote this poem.

to persuade

to inform

to entertain

2. Circle what you think the author is trying to tell you.

The author wants to fly or swim or play all day.

Working is not what the author would choose to do.

The author wants to be an animal.

3. Circle why you think the author thinks about being something else.

The author wants to escape from worries and work and be free like animals.

The author wants a pet.

The author would love to be an animal.

4. List three things the author wants to leave behind. _____

5. Write the following words on the matching animal. Some words will be used more than once.

fly

sleep

soar

play ball

run

rest

splash

play

fish

jump

flip

catch

climb

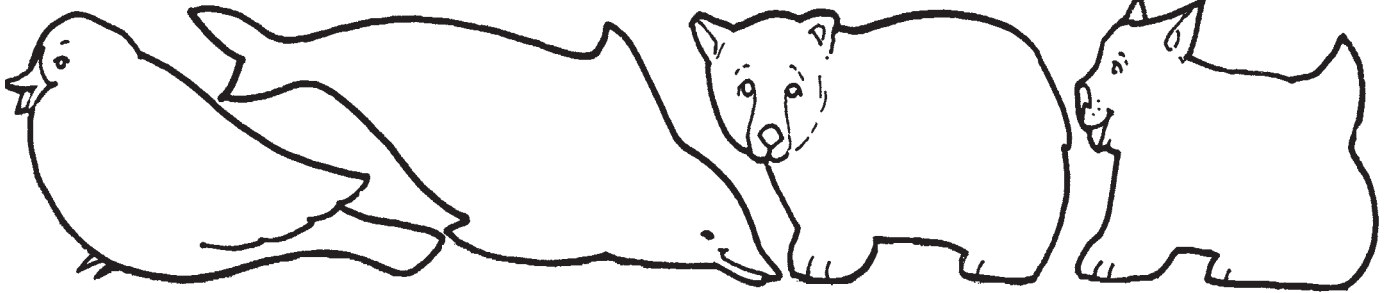
roll over

float

dive

sing

fetch



6. Write *F* for Fact or *O* for Opinion.

___ The author would like to escape worries and work like a bird or a dolphin.

___ The author is unhappy as a human and wants to be an animal.

___ The author knows work needs to be finished before playing.

___ The author just wants to have fun.

___ The author feels sorry for all kids who have to do work.



Find three articles in a newspaper or magazine that are written for different purposes. Share the articles with a friend.

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1. to entertain; 2. Working is not what the author would choose to do. 3. The author wants to escape from worries and be free like animals. 4. worries, chores, homework; 5. bird: fly, float, sing, play, soar; dolphin: splash, play, dive, flip; bear: jump, climb, sleep, run, play, fish; dog: play ball, jump, run, roll over, fetch, rest, catch; 6. F, O, F, F, O