

Ballpoint Penguins

...where unique birds don't fly, but write



CONNECT What brand of pen or pencil do you like? Why?

REFLECT What are all the birds you know of? Write down their names and read your list to the class.

IMAGINE That you have a magic pen. What are the things that it can do? Draw and describe it.

BEFORE YOU READ



Jack Prelutsky is a writer from the United States of America who writes children's poetry. He has published over fifty poetry collections and was named the Children's Poet Laureate – one of the most important prizes – by Poetry Foundation in 2006. Some of his poetry books are *It's Halloween*, *Zoo Doings*, *The Terrible Tiger*. He has also made his poems into music and often plays them with guitar.

Ballpoint Penguins is a poem about the strange and wonderful ways in which an equally strange group of birds write down things. Penguins are charmingly only black and white, but are often found in very cold parts of the world where there is very less sunshine. How do they manage to have fun in their lives? We will find out in the poem!



READ

The Ballpoint Penguins, black and white,
Do little else but write and write.

Although they've nothing much to say,
They write and write it anyway.





The Ballpoint Penguins do not think,
They simply write with endless ink.
They write of ice, they write of snow,
For that is all they seem to know.

At times, these shy and silent birds
Will **verbally** express their words,
But mostly they do not **recite**—
They aim their **beaks** and write and write.

although: even if

verbally: to say something with
your mouth

recite: to say or sing something

beaks: the outer, hard parts of
birds' mouths

CONSOLIDATE

A1. Choose the correct answers to complete the given sentences.

1. According to the speaker, Ballpoint Penguins come in _____ colours.
 - a. red and white
 - b. black and white
2. According to the speaker, what do the Ballpoint Penguins do?
 - a. they just write and write
 - b. they think and recite
3. According to the speaker, how are these birds?
 - a. shy and silent
 - b. clever and talkative



Read and Answer



**A2. Answer these questions.**

1. What do the Ballpoint Penguins write of?
2. What do the Ballpoint Penguins use to write?
3. Look at these lines from the poem:
'At times, these shy and silent birds
Will verbally express their words,'
Who are these birds that the speaker is talking about?

A3. Think and answer.

1. Why do you think the speaker says that the Penguins can write only about ice and snow?
2. Draw a penguin and describe it in your own words.

A4. Learn Interesting Things

Rhyme Scheme is the pattern of **rhyme** at the end of each line of a poem. We use letters to indicate the lines that rhyme, i.e. the lines that end with a similar sound. For example, in the first stanza, the words which end the first two lines are 'white' and 'write', and then 'say' and 'anyway' in the next two lines. Thus, the rhyme scheme is *aabb*.

**rhyme scheme**

Now, write down the rhyme scheme for every stanza of the poem. Then, write a few rhyming words for the words given below.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. think _____ | 2. white _____ |
| 3. birds _____ | 4. snow _____ |



Can you write the feminine gender of the following nouns?

grandfather		landlord	
poet		brother	

C2. Change the gender in the following sentences.

1. The girl is afraid of the cow.
2. Boys are playing in the field.
3. The governess is an old woman.
4. The headmaster is very kind.
5. The farmer has a bull, a ram and many hens.

D. Listen to the poem. Write down the words that are missing in the poem.



E. Let's do an interesting activity. One by one, come forward and introduce yourself to the class.

Hint: You can start by answering the following questions.



What is your name? How old are you? Where do you live? What do your parents do? Do you have siblings? How old are they? What are your hobbies?

F. Read the following words aloud.

cob job cab cub tab nib _____
 kid lid bid red mud head _____
 leaf half if off sniff thief _____



- Do you see something common in these words? What is it?
- Add two more words in each cell to complete the table.

EXTEND



G. Zavodovski Island is an island located in the Antarctic Ocean. The island experiences very cold winters, so that the sun does not shine for six months of the year. No animals or plants can live there except for one species of birds – penguins. Only penguins can survive the winter, and only a handful of humans have ever been to Zavodovski and returned alive.

Now, try to find Zavodovski on the map. **Imagine the story of a penguin, and complete the following story by filling in the blanks.**