

# Unit 14, Lessons 1 and 2



WHILE YOU ARE WAITING FOR CLASS TO START, PLEASE FIND YOUR “BELIEVING OUR EARS & EYES” BOOK FROM K12. IT IS A SLIM PAPER “MAGAZINE” WITH A PURPLE TYPE AT THE TOP AND TWO PICTURES OF OLD ADVERTISEMENTS.



“What’s Black and White and Red All Over?”  
p. 14-16, *Believing Our Ears and Eyes*

“A Thousand Years of Guessing”  
p. 17-21, *Believing Our Ears and Eyes*

April 6, 2015

# Student Expectations...

Being part of this “school” is awesome! How can YOU make this ocean even more awesome??



=



- ✓ I will BE HERE! **respond** when my name is called, use **polling tools**, **complete classwork**, **notes**, and **chat** to participate!
- ✓ I will **choose my attitude!**
- ✓ I will **demonstrate respect** and **follow directions** for my classmates and teachers to help **make their day!**
- ✓ I will have **fun** learning!



EVERYONE needs a working mic. Call 1-866-K12-care if it's not working. Let's get it fixed!



Whiteboard Tools

**Teacher Key:**



Know It Notes



Chat Box



Polling Tools



Free for all MIC

# Welcome to the Coffee Room



Move yourself back when you are ready to  
participate. 😊

If you are having tech issues please call k12:  
866-512-2273

# Standards

**R6.A.2.3.1:** Make inferences and/or draw conclusions based on information from text.

**R6.A.2.3.2:** Cite evidence from text to support generalizations.

# Objectives

Students will be able to identify a riddle.

Students will define riddle and non-fiction.

Identify defining characteristics of the text.

Compare and contrast literary characters and selections.

Recognize author's purpose and devices used to accomplish it, including author's language, organization, and structure.

Formulate opinion and personal response.

Make inferences and draw conclusions

# Essential Questions

- 1) What are riddles?
- 2) How do authors create riddles using language?
- 3) What are some forms of nonfiction you regularly use?
- 4) How do we make inferences from nonfiction pieces?



# WHAT is our new unit going to be focusing on???

(check out the clues below!!!)

Where do fish keep their money???



It lives without a body, hears without ears,  
speaks without a mouth, and is born in air.  
What is it???

What can be put on a table and cut, but never eaten??

What flies without wings?????

A riddle is

- a song-like poem.
- a puzzle in the form of a statement or question, which requires an answer.
- an ancient joke.
- a witty saying about a universal truth.



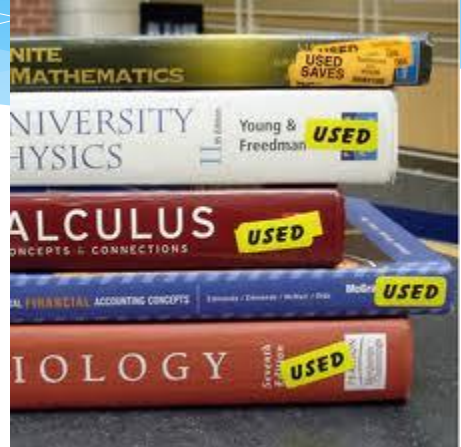
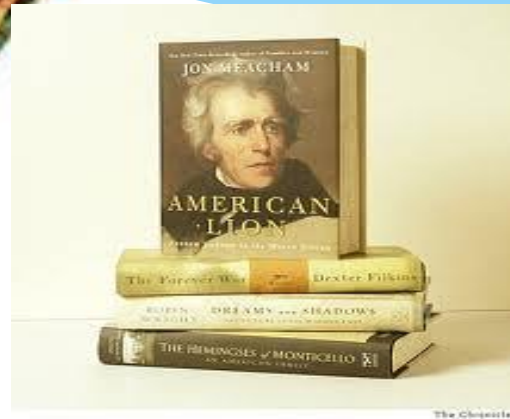
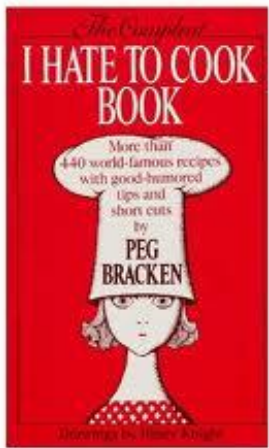


# Quick Reminder Check.....

Today's reading presents facts and information in order to explain, describe, or persuade. This type of writing is called

- biography.
- nonfiction.
- historical fiction.
- personal narrative.







## **Riddle Review**

Riddles are a way of playing with words that requires the listener to think to find the answer. Riddles use language to hint at an idea without stating the idea directly. Riddles draw on associations and double meanings.

Sometimes a riddle seems impossible to understand, but once you know the answer, it seems obvious. That's part of the appeal of riddles; the answer is there, but it is difficult to see at first glance.

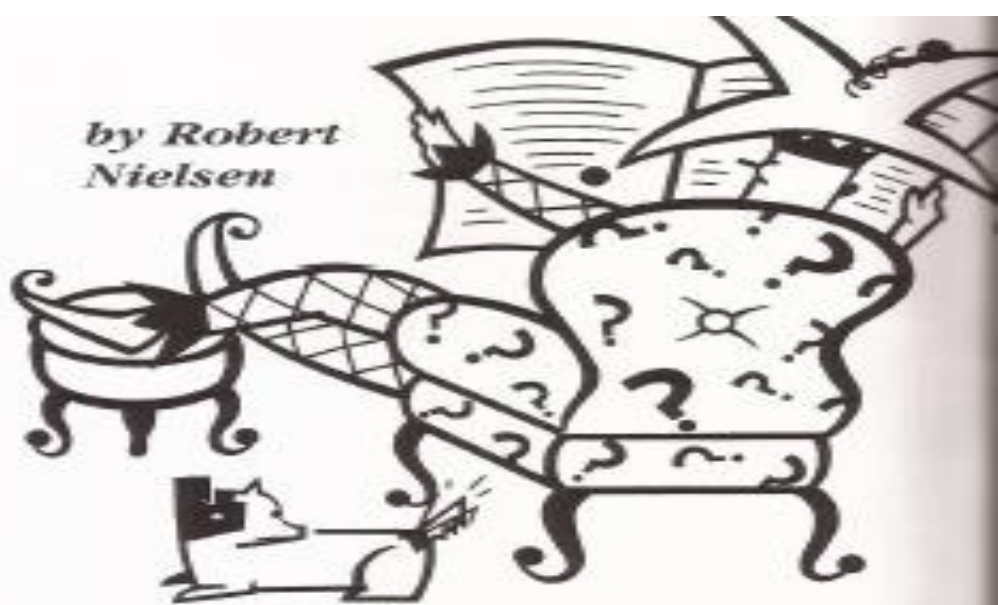
# WHAT'S BLACK AND WHITE AND RED ALL OVER?

**I**N ANCIENT TIMES people took their riddling seriously. Take, for example, the famous Riddle of the Sphinx. A creature with the head of a woman, the body of a lion, and the wings of an eagle, the Sphinx lay in wait for travelers to the city of Thebes. To each passerby it posed its riddle: "What creature goes on four feet in the morning, on two at noonday, on three in the evening?" Those who failed to answer correctly were devoured. The Sphinx was enjoying many a tasty meal, until the dauntless Oedipus came along.

"Man," Oedipus replied, "for in childhood he creeps on hands and feet; in manhood he walks erect; in old age he helps himself with a cane." A trifle upset, the Sphinx rushed to the nearest precipice and leaped to its death. The happy people of Thebes immediately made Oedipus their king.

We don't take our riddling quite so much to heart today, though it's still a part of our culture. If you're a Batman fan, then you know all about the Riddler, the villain whose

by Robert  
Nielsen



puzzles indicate where he'll strike next. In one adventure, Batman finds a scrap of paper bearing the query, "When is a horse like a stamp collection?" As soon as the Dynamic Duo come up with the answer—"When it's a hobbyhorse"—they head for Hobby Airport in Houston to find their man!

Writers have always made good use of the venerable art of riddling. In J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, Bilbo Baggins encounters the slimy and odious Gollum, who has lost his magic ring in the caves of the Misty Mountains. A riddle contest ensues: if Bilbo wins, he escapes; if he doesn't, Gollum will eat him! One of the riddles posed by Gollum is this:

This thing all things devours:  
Birds, beasts, trees, flowers;  
Gnaws iron, bites steel;  
Grinds hard stones to meal;  
Slays king, ruins town,  
And beats high mountain down.

The answer is "time."





Ninety-six wonderful riddles appear in *The Exeter Book*, a tenth-century collection of Old English literature. The answers are all ordinary items. The speaker in each riddle is the thing itself, as it provides hints to its identity: the Plough says, "My nose is downwards," while the Anchor claims, "When I am at rest then am I mighty in conflict."

The French writer Perrault's *Mother Goose's Tales*, translated into English in 1729, contains many riddles, including the following:

Black am I and much admired,  
Men seek me until they're tired;  
When they find me, break my head,  
And take me from my resting bed.

Two brothers we are,  
Great burdens we bear,  
On which we are bitterly pressed;  
The truth is to say,  
We are full all the day,  
And empty when we go to rest.

The answer to the first riddle is "coal" and the answer to the second is "shoes."

One of the most famous riddles in history does not even have an answer! It occurs

during the fascinating "Mad Tea Party" in Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. The Mad Hatter asks, "Why is a raven like a writing-desk?" to which Alice enthusiastically replies, "Come, we shall have some fun now! I'm glad they've begun asking riddles—I believe I can guess that." After a long conversation, the Hatter asks, "Have you guessed the riddle yet?" When Alice replies, "No, I give it up. What's the answer?" the Hatter says, "I haven't the slightest idea."

Carroll finally gave in to his readers' demands to satisfy their curiosity. He wrote, "Enquiries have been so often addressed to me, as to whether any answer to the Hatter's Riddle can be imagined, that I may as well put on record here what seems to me to be a fairly appropriate answer, viz: 'Because it can produce a few notes, tho they are very flat; and it is never put with the wrong end in front!'"

Not satisfied with this, American Sam



Loyd offered these solutions in his *Cyclopedia of Puzzles*: the notes for which they are noted are not noted for being musical notes; Edgar Allan Poe wrote on both; bills and tales are among their characteristics.

The *conundrum* is a humorous kind of riddle; the answer is a pun or some other kind of joke. Solving a riddle usually requires reasoning ability, since there is a definite relationship between the question and answer, but the conundrum can be trickier. No matter how long you ponder, you may miss by a mile. And you'll probably groan when you hear the answer!

Why couldn't Eve have the measles?

*She'd Adam.*

Did Jonah cry when the whale swallowed him?

*He thought he was going to blubber,  
but he didn't.*

What is the center of gravity?

*The letter "v"*

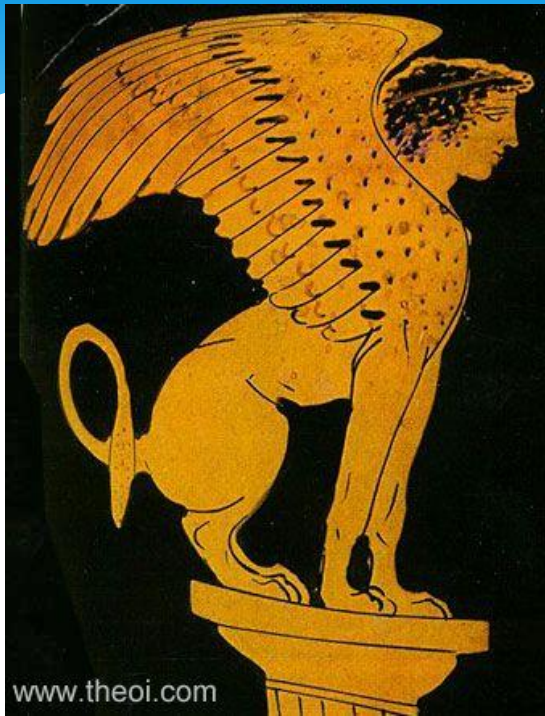
A form of old-fashioned riddle is the *chain conundrum*, which doesn't stop with just one bad joke, but goes painfully on and on!

Why is a beehive like a rotten potato?

*A beehive is a bee-holder, and a beholder is a spectator, and a specked tater is a rotten potato.*

The riddle is only one form of puzzle; there are a myriad of others, from crosswords to word searches to anagrams, all designed to test your ingenuity. Puzzle creators strive to invent problems that cleverly conceal their answers, and yet cry out to be solved. And few of us can resist the challenge—even if we don't take it quite as seriously as the Sphinx! ■





The Sphinx's Riddle- the Sphinx would lie in wait for travelers into the ancient city of Thebes and pose this riddle to them to get them to be allowed to pass...



"What creature goes on four feet in the morning, on two at noonday, on three in the evening?"

Your Turn! 😊



Two brothers we are,  
Great burdens we bear,  
On which we are bitterly pressed;  
The truth is to say,  
We are full all day,  
And empty when we go to rest.



QUICK CHECK!!!



Two brothers we are,  
Great burdens we bear,  
On which we are bitterly pressed;  
The truth is to say,  
We are full all day,  
And empty when we go to rest.

What is the author saying with the great burdens on which they are “bitterly pressed”? What are they referring to?

- A) The weight of the human wearing the shoes
- B) The shoes are heavy
- C) The shoes have a lot on their mind

# QUICK CHECK!!!

A Riddle is just an old joke



TRUE



FALSE



# Which of the following is a riddle?

A. You throw away the outside and cook the inside. Then you eat the outside and throw away the inside. What did you eat?

B. I was a dare devil,  
I always raised the level,  
I got bruises and scars,  
But that didn't stop me from going bizarre



I would jump and skate,  
But it wasn't my fate,  
I have to find something else to do,  
Before I don't have a clue

C. "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get."

**Now let's try  
with today's  
lesson....**



You know from the last lesson that riddles are a very old form of humor. The reason we know this is because of a book that is over a thousand years old. The book survives today because monks copied it and preserved it centuries ago. Read on to find out more about the book.



“A box without hinges, key or lid,  
Yet golden treasure inside is hid.”



# A Thousand Years of Guessing

*"A box without hinges, key, or lid,  
Yet golden treasure inside is hid."*

In *The Hobbit*, Bilbo Baggins used this riddle in his battle of wits against the creature Gollum. The answer, as Gollum finally guessed, is "egg." Have you ever wondered how the author J. R. R. Tolkien got the idea for his riddles?

When he wasn't writing, Tolkien taught Old English at Oxford University in England. Only three or four books still exist in Old English—and one of these is a book of riddles with no answer key!

The *Exeter Riddle Book* is more than one thousand years old, and it looks a little battered. There are stains from a drinking mug, knife marks that look as though somebody cut bread on it, and a long burn mark that makes some of the riddles hard to read. Now, because it's a priceless museum piece, the book is kept in a special vault in the library of Exeter Cathedral.

Old English was spoken in England from about A.D. 400 to 900. It's an ancestor of modern English

**by Jean Akhtar Cerrina**

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*Illustrated by Larry MacDougall*

and is a close relative of German—it's so different from today's English that, if you heard it, you wouldn't be able to understand it at all. In fact, the Old English alphabet had two letters that have now completely disappeared—eth ð and thorn þ.

For Anglo-Saxons—the ancient English people who spoke Old English—riddles were part of life. Ordinary people could not read or write, but everyone enjoyed oral demonstrations of intelligence and wit. Men and women often memorized stories, poems, and riddles to recite to each other when they sat around the fire in the evenings.

Riddles were popular because a witty or difficult riddle showed the cleverness of the speaker. And if the words also had a strong rhythm, people enjoyed the riddle even more. Old English poems and riddles use rhythm, not rhyme. In Modern English poems, the last words of two lines often have the same vowel sound, like "bat" and "cat." In Old English, four of the words in each line were specially stressed, and this rhythm was carried throughout the riddle. The strongly stressed words were supposed to start with the same consonant. So the riddles and poems, when spoken, had a strong, throbbing beat, like music. Our nursery rhymes—such as "Pease porridge hot, pease porridge cold"—have the same kind of strong beat, and that's one of the reasons they're so popular and easy to learn.

No one knows who first wrote down the Exeter riddles. Among the men and women listening around the fire, there must have been a monk who knew how to write, and he decided to put the riddles into a book.

But making just one book like the *Exeter Book* often took years. Because it was dark inside the buildings and candles were expensive,

monk-scribes sat outdoors in sheltered courtyards and copied entire manuscripts by hand. They used sheepskin parchment that they had scraped smooth, ink made from soot or oak bark boiled in vinegar, and quill pens that they constantly had to sharpen with little knives. The monks copied by hand about six hours a day, even when it was cold. And they had to keep silent while they worked. One monk wrote this in the margin of a manuscript he was copying: "While I wrote, I froze, and what I could not write by the beams of the sun, I finished by candlelight."

Over the centuries, since Anglo-Saxon times, many scholars—including Tolkien—have puzzled over the Old English riddles in the *Exeter Book*. There are several possible answers for most of the riddles. But no one—not even Tolkien—has figured out all the answers for sure.

Can you solve these riddles? Here's a short

one, translated by F. H. Whitman, with the Old English words underneath it:

Modern English: A wonder was on the wave;  
water turned to bone.

Old English: *wundor wearth on wege  
waeter wearth to bane*

Here are some from Kevin Crossley-Holland's book *The Exeter Riddle Book*. In this one the answer is hidden in the riddle itself:

Wob's my name, if you work it out;  
I'm a fair creature fashioned for battle.  
When I bend and shoot a deadly shaft  
from my stomach, I desire only to send  
that poison as far away as possible.  
When my lord, who devised this torment  
for me,  
releases my limbs, I become longer  
and, bent upon slaughter, spit out  
that deadly poison that I swallowed before.  
No man's easily parted from the object  
I describe; if he's struck by what flies  
from my stomach, he pays for its poison  
with his strength—speedy atonement for  
his life.  
I'll serve no master when unstrung, only  
when  
I'm cunningly notched. Now guess my  
name.

Here's one for students. Scholars have suggested three possible answers to it.

I watched four fair creatures  
traveling together; they left black tracks  
behind them. The support of the bird  
moved swiftly; it flew in the sky,  
dived under the waves. The struggling  
warrior  
continuously toiled, pointing out the paths  
to all four over the fine gold.

And here's one that has never been definitively answered. So far, there are four possible answers, and scholars are still arguing about which is the best!

I'm loved by my lord, and his shoulder  
companion, I'm the comrade of a warrior,  
a friend of the King. Frequently the  
fair-haired  
Queen, the daughter of an earl, deigns  
to lay her hand upon me in spite of her  
nobility.  
I carry within me what grew in the grove.  
Sometimes I ride on a proud steed  
at the head of the host; harsh is my voice.  
Very often I recompense the gleeman  
for his songs. I'm somber in color,  
and kind at heart. What am I called?

Throughout the centuries, the answers have stayed hidden. Even today, if you do an Internet search using the keywords "Old English Riddle," you'll find people arguing about possible solutions! It's been a thousand years, and people are still guessing.

**T**o write your own riddle the way Tolkien did, pick an object and then pretend you are that object. Think of what makes it special or how it would feel when someone used it or what it would see when it looked around. Write the riddle speaking as if you were the object. How would it talk? You might even be able to put in a strong rhythm the way the Anglo-Saxons did. ■





The author most likely uses the title "A Thousand Years of Guessing" for this article because

- Gollum, the character from *The Hobbit*, was a thousand years old.
- the author is arguing that riddles of today will still be used in a thousand years.
- The Exeter Book* is more than a thousand years old.
- he is giving the reader a riddle in the title.



No one knows who first wrote down the Exeter riddles. Among the men and women listening around the fire, there must have been a monk who knew how to write, and he decided to put the riddles into a book.

But making just one book like the *Exeter Book* often took years. Because it was dark inside the buildings and candles were expensive, monk-scribes sat outdoors in the sheltered courtyards and copied entire manuscripts by hand. They used sheepskin parchment that they had scraped smooth, ink made from soot or oak bark boiled in vinegar, and quill pens that they constantly had to sharpen with little knives. The monks copied by hand about six hours a day, even when it was cold. And they had to keep silent while they worked. One monk wrote this in the margin of a manuscript he was copying: “While I wrote, I froze, and what I could not write by the beams of the sun, I finished by candlelight.”

What does  
infer mean?!?!?

What can you infer about the role of monks in the Middle Ages?

- Monks were wealthy and acted as bankers in the Middle Ages.
- The monks' primary responsibility was to teach Latin.
- Monks were hard workers who were interested in preserving history.
- Monks wrote secret codes in order to protect the king.



## QUICK CHECK!!!

For Anglo-Saxons- the ancient English people who spoke Old English- riddles were part of life. Ordinary people could not read or write, but everyone enjoyed oral demonstrations of intelligence and wit. Men and women often memorized stories, poems, and riddles to recite to each other when they sat around the fire in the evenings.

Riddles were popular because a witty or difficult riddle showed the cleverness of the speaker. And if the words also had a strong rhythm, people enjoyed the riddle even more. Old English poems and riddles use rhythm, not rhyme. In Modern English poems, the last words of two lines often have the same vowel sound , like “bat” and “cat”. In Old English, four of the words in each line were specially stressed, and this rhythm was carried throughout the riddle. The strongly stressed words were supposed to start with the same consonance. So the riddles and poems, when spoken, had a strong, throbbing beat, like music. Our nursery rhymes- such as “Pease porridge hot, pease porridge cold”- have the same kind of strong beat, and that’s one of the reasons they’re so popular and easy to learn.



# QUICK CHECK!!!

According to the passage, people in the Middle Ages were different from us now in all these ways but one. Which one is incorrect based on what we read?

- Riddles were an important part of life.
- People could write their own riddles.
- Most people could not read or write.
- People memorized riddles and stories to use as entertainment.



**QUICK CHECK!!!**



Riddles were popular because they:

- A. Made fun of people
- B. Talked about their daily lives
- C. Showed the cleverness of a speaker
- D. Were easy to write down

**HW TICKET...**  
Answer the following  
questions in the GoogleForm

**Use the link below to answer the following questions...**

- 1. Define “riddle”**
- 2. Define “non-fiction”**
- 3. Find a riddle online that you’d like to share with the class.**
- 4. Tell me your favorite form of nonfiction. Why is it your favorite?**

# Homework

- \* Complete the HW Ticket
- \* Go through and complete Unit 18 Lessons 1-2 in the OLS.
- \* Read pgs. 314-330 in “Alice in Wonderland” in your Classics for Young Readers book for TOMORROW.

- \* Extension:

Both of the articles you have read in *Believing Our Ears and Eyes* have mentioned *The Exeter Book*. If you are interested in seeing [The Exeter Book](#) in its original Old English, check it out at the Georgetown University website.

If you would like to read more about the contents of the book, visit the [BBC: The Exeter Book of Old English Poetry](#) site. If you would like to see a picture of the cathedral where the original manuscript is housed, visit the [Exeter Cathedral](#) site.

