

This week, you will be looking at poetry linked to animals because later in the week you will be writing poems based on Stone Age animals.

**Task 1** - Read the text below, looking up and discussing any unfamiliar vocabulary with an adult.

### Weather Zoo

When the thunder thuds,  
The elephant  
Blows its grey trumpet  
And stamps its creased feet  
Like tree trunks thumping.

When the hailstones patter,  
The mongoose  
Tap dances on tiptoes  
And the squirrel monkey slips by,  
Spitting out melon pips  
Like tiny black bullets,  
As fast as full stops.

When the rain pours,  
The chimpanzee  
Taps its leathery fingertips  
On the cold window pane  
Like the beat of a drum.

When the snow falls,  
The white moth  
Flutters its dusty wings,  
Frail as rice paper,  
Like soft Chinese silk.

*By Pie Corbett*



**Task 2** – Choose your level of challenge and answer the questions below in full sentences. Remember to rehearse your answer before you write it and read it, out loud, afterwards to check it makes sense and is punctuated correctly.

**Mild - To retrieve information from a text**

1. What type of weather describes the elephant?

*The word \_\_\_\_\_ describes the elephant.*

2. Who spits out melon pips?

*The \_\_\_\_\_ spits out melon pips.*

3. What are 'as frail as rice paper'?

*The \_\_\_\_\_ are 'as frail as rice paper'.*

4. What are the elephant's feet like?

*The elephant's stamping feet are like \_\_\_\_\_.*

5. Who has 'leathery' fingertips?

*The \_\_\_\_\_ has 'leathery' fingertips.*

6. What makes a pattering sound?

*The \_\_\_\_\_ make a pattering sound.*

**Spicy/Hot - To comment on the poet's use of language**

**Spicy – 1 – 6, Hot – all questions**

1. Why is 'frail' an effective word to describe the moth's wings?
2. Why has the poet described the elephant's trunk as a trumpet?
3. Which word describes a chimpanzee's fingertips? Why do you think this word was chosen?
4. Why is 'creased' a good word to describe elephant's feet?
5. What literary device (technique used to create an effect in writing) is 'thunder thuds' and 'trunks thumping'?
6. What literary device is used in 'Spitting out melon pips, Like tiny black bullets'?
7. How do you know that this is a poem rather than a narrative story?
8. What are the features of this poem?
9. What type of words are 'thuds', 'blows' and 'stamps'?
10. Why has the poet included the words in question 9?

*Answers on the next page*

## Answers

### Mild - To retrieve information from a text

1. The word **thunder** describes the elephant.
2. The **squirrel monkey** spits out melon pips.
3. The **white moth's dusty wings** are 'as frail as rice paper'.
4. The elephant's stamping feet are like **tree trunks thumping**.
5. The **chimpanzee** has 'leathery' fingertips.
6. The **hailstones** make a pattering sound.

### Spicy/Hot - To comment on the poet's use of language

#### Answers will vary but use the below as a guide.

1. Frail is an effective word to describe the moth's wings because they are very fragile.
2. The poet described the elephant's trunk as trumpet because they can make loud sounds with it.
3. The chimpanzee's fingertips are described as 'leathery'. I think this word was chosen because the chimpanzee's skin has a tough, hard texture like leather.
4. Creased is a good word to describe elephant's feet because they are marked by wrinkles.
5. 'Thunder thuds' and 'trunks thumping' are examples of alliteration because both words in each phrase start with the same letter.
6. The literary feature used in 'Spitting out melon pips, Like tiny black bullets' is a simile because it is comparing the pips to bullets.
7. I know that this is a poem rather than a narrative story because it is written in stanzas rather than paragraphs and it uses similes throughout.
8. The features of a poem are: stanzas, similes, alliteration, adjective, adverbs.
9. The words 'thuds', 'blows', 'stamps' are examples of verbs.
10. The poet has included these words to give the give the reader a sense of how the animals move and behave.