

Lesson 43: Memory Lesson — Don't Rob the Birds**PLL PART TWO****Classical Memory Verse**

*Don't rob the birds of their eggs, boys,
It is cruel, and heartless, and wrong;
But remember, by breaking an egg, boys,
We may lose a bird with a song.*

Poetic Focus: Rhythm & rhyme • Commas in direct address (boys) • Moral stewardship of nature.

1 POETIC MEANING & MORAL INQUIRY

Read the poem aloud twice. Notice its musical rhythm, then answer each question.

- 1. Moral Rule:** What action does the poet urge children not to do? _____
- 2. Moral Words:** Name the three words that describe taking eggs: _____
- 3. Cause & Effect:** What wonderful living gift is lost when an egg is broken? _____

2 POETIC CRAFT, RHYME & VOCABULARY

Examine the rhyme scheme and word choices used in the four lines.

A. Rhyme Scheme Detective: Which word in line 4 rhymes with *wrong* in line 2?

The word **wrong** rhymes with: _____

B. Vocabulary Meaning: The word *heartless* in the poem means:

[] Full of love and cheer [] Unkind and without pity [] Quick and fast

C. Repeated Direct Address: Which word is repeated at the end of lines 1 and 3?

Repeated word set off by a comma: _____

3 STANZA COPYING & MEMORY PRACTICE

Copy lines 3 and 4 accurately onto the guidelines below. Commit all four lines to memory for recitation.

Line 3: _____

Line 4: _____

4 WHY SONGBIRDS BLESS OUR WORLD

In one thoughtful sentence, describe how birds bring happiness, music, and beauty to our mornings.

Reflection: _____

1 PEDAGOGICAL STANDARDS & RECITATION COACHING

Memory Work in Classical Serf Pedagogy: Memorizing quality verse instills natural meter, expands vocabulary, and forms moral character. Have students recite standing tall, pausing at commas, and emphasizing the lyrical contrast between *wrong* and *song*.

Standards Addressed: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.4 (Poetry words & rhythm), RL.2.1 (Moral theme & details), L.2.2 (Punctuation in verse), SL.2.6 (Recitation & oral fluency).

✓ COMPLETE ANSWER KEY**Section 1: Poetic Meaning & Moral Inquiry**

1. Moral Rule: *Not to rob birds of their eggs.*
2. Moral Words: *cruel, heartless, and wrong* (all 3 words expected).
3. Cause & Effect: *A bird with a song* (a future singing bird).

Section 2: Poetic Craft, Rhyme & Vocabulary

- A. Rhyme Scheme: *song*.
- B. Vocabulary: **[✓] Unkind and without pity.**
- C. Repeated Word: *boys* (set off by commas as direct address).

Section 3: Stanza Copying & Memory Practice

Line 3: *But remember, by breaking an egg, boys,*

Line 4: *We may lose a bird with a song.*

- Check capital B in *But* and capital W in *We*.
- Verify comma after *remember*, *egg*, and *boys*.
- Terminal period after *song*.

Section 4: Why Songbirds Bless Our World (Sample Answers)

- *Songbirds wake up the morning with cheerful tunes and brighten our gardens.*
- *Birds bring joy to our hearts through their sweet music and gentle flying.*

Reward thoughtful student reflections expressing care for living creatures.

! DIAGNOSTIC GUIDE & RECITATION COACHING

- **Recitation Rhythm:** Children often rush through lines 1 and 3. Guide them to take a slight breath at each comma around *boys* to give the verse its natural lyrical meter.
- **Vocabulary Enrichment:** Discuss the root of *heartless* (having no heart = lacking sympathy/mercy). Contrast it with *kindhearted*.
- **Reflective Connection:** Connect this lesson to Lesson 42 (Mary and the bird's nest) to show the continuity of kindness toward nature.

★ SCORING RUBRIC (20 POINTS TOTAL)

Evaluation Metric	Exemplary (5 Pts)	Proficient (3-4 Pts)	Developing (1-2 Pts)
Poetic Comprehension	Articulates the moral lesson and cause-effect consequence clearly in full sentences.	Identifies core moral lesson; answers 2 of 3 comprehension questions accurately.	Struggles to interpret the loss of the songbird; answers fragmented.
Rhyme & Vocabulary	Correctly identifies rhyming pair (<i>wrong/song</i>) and defines <i>heartless</i> .	Identifies the rhyme word; minor hesitation with the vocabulary definition.	Cannot identify the rhyming word or selects incorrect definition.
Transcription Accuracy	Transcribes lines 3 and 4 with 100% precision in punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.	Transcribes with 1 minor punctuation error; letter casing is correct.	Multiple capitalization, comma, or spelling errors in transcription.
Recitation & Reflection	Recites all 4 lines from memory with expression; writes an eloquent stewardship reflection.	Recites with minor hesitation; writes a thoughtful, complete reflection sentence.	Requires prompting to recite; reflection sentence incomplete or rushed.