

Lesson 57: Poetry & Word Study — The Cunning Cat**PLL PART TWO****Poetic Form & Word Study • The Cunning Cat**

"A cunning cat, all rolled in a ball,
Lay on a mat in an oaken hall.
'If the little mice peep, they'll think I'm asleep;'
So she lay on the mat in the oaken hall."

Poetic Focus: Stanza rhyme • Internal dialogue • Onomatopoeia • Irregular past tense verbs.

1 POEM RECITATION & RHYME ANALYSIS

Read the second stanza aloud with clear expression, noticing the musical rhythm and rhyming sounds:

"Nibble, nibble, nibble! went the little mice,
And they licked their paws, and said, 'It's nice!'
When up sprang the cat from off the mat,
And caught them all in her cruel claws."

1. Rhyming Pairs: Write two rhyming pairs from the poem: **ball** & _____; **mice** & _____

2. Pretended Sleep: Why did the cunning cat curl tightly like a ball on the mat?

The cat curled up so the mice would think: _____

2 MASTER WORD BANK & IRREGULAR VERBS

The poem uses vivid sensory words and irregular past tense verbs. Select words from the bank:

mice claws sprang caught paws asleep little licked oaken rolled nibble cunning

1. Past Tense: The verb *sprang* becomes _____; *catch* becomes _____

2. Adjectives: Describe the hall: made of _____ wood ; Describe the cat: clever and _____

3. Sentence: Use *sprang* or *caught* in an original sentence about the cat:

3 SOUND WORDS & EXACT SPEECH

Examine how the author creates lively sound effects and records exact spoken words.

1. Onomatopoeia: Which repeated word mimics the chewing sound of the mice? _____

2. Direct Speech: Copy the exact words spoken by the mice inside quotation marks:

Lesson 57 Teacher Key: Poetic Form & Vocabulary Mastery

ANSWER KEY & RUBRIC

Pedagogical Framework

Lesson Focus: Cultivating auditory appreciation for poetic meter, end rhymes (AABB / ABCB), onomatopoeic rhythm, irregular past tense forms (*spring* → *sprang*, *catch* → *caught*), and exact quotation punctuation.

1 SECTION 1: RHYME ANALYSIS & COMPREHENSION SOLUTIONS

- 1. Rhyming Pairs:** *ball* & *hall* (or *mat* & *cat*) ; *mice* & *nice*.
- 2. Pretended Sleep:** The cat rolled into a ball so the little mice would think she was asleep and come out to feed without fear.

2 SECTION 2: WORD BANK & IRREGULAR VERBS SOLUTIONS

- 1. Past Tense Inflections:** *spring* → **sprang** (or *sprung*); *catch* → **caught**.
- 2. Descriptive Adjectives:** The hall was **oaken** (made of oak); the cat was **cunning** (clever, sly, crafty).
- 3. Exemplary Sentences:**
 - "The hungry cat sprang across the rug and caught the careless mouse."
 - "With quick paws, she caught the mice before they could run away."

3 SECTION 3: SOUND WORDS & PUNCTUATION SOLUTIONS

- 1. Sound Word (Onomatopoeia):** *Nibble* (repeated: "Nibble, nibble, nibble!").
- 2. Direct Speech Quotation:** "It's nice!" (Must include quotation marks, capital letter, apostrophe in *It's*, and exclamation mark).

4 DIAGNOSTIC SCORING RUBRIC (4 PERFORMANCE LEVELS)

Evaluation Domain	4 • Exemplary	3 • Proficient	2 • Developing / Emerging
Poetic Rhyme & Comprehension	Identifies all rhyming pairs accurately; thoroughly explains the cat's cunning ruse.	Identifies rhyming pairs with minor spelling slip; explains ruse correctly.	Struggles to isolate rhyming endings or misinterprets cat's intent.
Vocabulary & Irregular Verbs	Masterfully inflects <i>sprang</i> and <i>caught</i> ; constructs vivid, syntactically flawless sentence.	Correctly inflects verbs; writes complete sentence with minor punctuation error.	Uses incorrect verb form (e.g. * <i>catched</i>); incomplete sentence structure.
Onomatopoeia & Quotations	Isolates sound word accurately; transcribes quotation with exact quotation marks and apostrophe.	Isolates sound word; minor quotation mark omission or misplaced punctuation.	Misses sound word; neglects speech punctuation entirely.
Handwriting & Presentation	Exemplary letterforms aligned perfectly on baselines with clear letter-spacing.	Legible handwriting with consistent spacing and clean erasures.	Handwriting uneven, cramped, or baseline omitted.