

Grade 2 • Lesson 6: Memory Lesson

CLASSICAL POETRY & HABIT



Primary Rule of Action

*"Work while you work, play while you play, —
That is the way to be cheerful and gay!
All that you do, do with your might;
Things done by halves are never done right."*

A CAREFUL COPYWORK (LINES 1 & 2)

Transcribe the first two lines with exact punctuation (capital letters, commas, dash, exclamation point):

1. Work while you work, play while you play, —

2. That is the way to be cheerful and gay!

B CAREFUL COPYWORK (LINES 3 & 4)

Transcribe the last two lines with exact punctuation (semicolon and terminal period):

3. All that you do, do with your might;

4. Things done by halves are never done right.

C MEANING & RHYME

1. What word rhymes with **play**? [] • What rhymes with **might**? []

2. What does it mean to do work "with your might"?

3. What happens to tasks when they are "done by halves"?

D ORAL RECITATION VERIFICATION

☐ Read aloud smoothly

☐ Clear expression & rhythm

☐ Recited from memory without looking

Charlotte Mason Rationale & Habit of Attention:

Recitation is not mere mechanical parroting; it is the child's possession of a worthy thought dressed in beautiful language. This stanza (by M. A. Stodart) builds the moral habit of single-minded focus: whether working or playing, one must give wholehearted attention.

Section A & B • Exact Transcription & Punctuation Nuances:

- **Line 1:** Work while you work, play while you play, – (Initial capital, comma after *work*, comma and em-dash after second *play*).
- **Line 2:** That is the way to be cheerful and gay! (Initial capital, terminal exclamation point expressing joyful energy).
- **Line 3:** All that you do, do with your might; (Comma setting off the imperative repetition *do*, terminal semicolon linking related clauses).
- **Line 4:** Things done by halves are never done right. (Initial capital, terminal period completing the declarative maxim).

Section C • Meaning & Rhyme Key:

- **1. Rhyming Pairs:** play rhymes with gay; might rhymes with right (AABB rhyme scheme).
- **2. "With your might":** Doing something with all one's strength, full energy, and earnest focus. (Not lazily or daydreaming).
- **3. "Done by halves":** Work left incomplete, done carelessly, or done with divided attention. Such work is never done right.

Historical Vocabulary Note for Teachers:

Explain to children that in classical 19th-century English, the word "gay" meant "*full of joy, bright, cheerful, and merry.*" Model this noble, joyful sense when reciting.

Competency	Mastery (Exemplary)	Developing	Needs Guidance
Memory Recitation	Recites all 4 lines flawlessly with natural rhythm and joy.	Recites with 1–2 minor hesitations or prompts.	Needs line-by-line prompting.
Punctuation & Copywork	All punctuation marks (—, !, ,, .) accurately transcribed.	1 punctuation error or missing capital letter.	Multiple missed capitals and end marks.
Comprehension	Articulates clear distinction between wholehearted effort vs halfway work.	Explains meaning with simple guidance.	Struggles to interpret "done by halves."
Penmanship	Letters sit evenly on baseline with uniform ascenders/descenders.	Legible with minor spacing inconsistencies.	Letters uneven or floating above line.