

LESSON 11: "DO YOUR BEST" — POEM STUDY & MEMORY

📌 GRAMMAR SNAPSHOT • RULES OF POETRY & MEMORIZATION

- **Golden Rule:** Every line of poetry must begin with a Capital letter.
- **Memory Gem:** Practice reading the poem aloud until you can recite it smoothly from memory!

Do your best, your very best,
And do it every day;
Little boys and little girls,
That is the wisest way.

MEMORY GEM

Commit to memory

• PART A • COPY THE POEM NEATLY (LINES 1 – 4)

Copy each line of the poem neatly. Begin each line with a Capital letter and include all punctuation.

1. Do your best, your very best,

2. And do it every day;

3. Little boys and little girls,

4. That is the wisest way.

• PART B • POETRY COMPREHENSION & WORD STUDY

Answer each question about the poem in a complete sentence or phrase.

5. Which word in the poem rhymes with "day"? (Look at the end of Line 4)

6. Who should do their very best? (Look at Line 3)

7. Why does the word "And" in Line 2 begin with a Capital letter?

8. Write one good thing you will do your best at today:

SELF-CHECK & RECITATION

Did you begin every line of poetry with a Capital letter? Can you recite all four lines from memory?

Lesson 11: "Do Your Best" — Poem Study & Memory

Teacher Answer Key, Poetic Structure & Recitation Assessment Guide

TEACHER ANSWER KEY

CORE PEDAGOGICAL OBJECTIVES

- **Poetic Mechanics:** Instill the universal convention that every line of poetry begins with a Capital letter.
- **Phonemic Rhyme & Meter:** Train children to identify end rhyme (*day / way*) and experience cadence through rhythmic repetition.
- **Memory & Moral Gem:** Cultivate the virtues of diligence and consistent effort ("do it every day").

INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS & STRATEGIES

- **Choral Recitation with Rhythm:** Clap hands gently to the 4-beat rhythm while reciting: "Do your **best**, your very **best**..."
- **Line-by-Line Memory Build:** Recite Line 1 → Add Line 2 → Recite Lines 1–2 → Add Line 3 → Full poem.
- **Cursive to Print Transition:** Reassure students that standard clean Century Gothic lettering is ideal for print worksheets.

#	EXEMPLARY TARGET RESPONSE	LINGUISTIC & POETIC FOCUS	TEACHER EVALUATION NOTES
1	Do your best, your very best,	Capital 'D'; internal comma; terminal comma	Verify capital 'D'; check both commas.
2	And do it every day;	Capital 'A' in poetry line; semicolon (;) or comma	Essential check: Capital 'A' in poetry line.
3	Little boys and little girls,	Capital 'L'; plural nouns; terminal comma (,)	Check capital 'L'; plural nouns <i>boys</i> & <i>girls</i> .
4	That is the wisest way.	Capital 'T'; superlative <i>wisest</i> ; period (.)	Verify terminal period (.); check spelling of <i>wisest</i> .
5	way (or: The word that rhymes with "day" is "way".)	End-rhyme phonemic match (/eɪ/)	Accept single word "way" or full complete sentence.
6	Little boys and little girls.	Comprehension of subject / addressee	Accept "Little boys and little girls" or "All children".
7	Because every line of poetry begins with a Capital letter.	Core poetic orthography rule	Full understanding of poetic capitalization convention.
8	Student's personal commitment (e.g., I will do my best to read neatly / practice math / help my teacher.)	Personal application & sentence formulation	Award credit for any positive, complete thought.

POETIC ANALYSIS : STANZA STRUCTURE , RHYME & METER

Rhyme Scheme: A - B - C - B

- Line 1 ends with *best* (A)
- Line 2 ends with *day* (B)
- Line 3 ends with *girls* (C)
- Line 4 ends with *way* (B — rhymes with *day*)

Moral Pedagogy of the Memory Gem:

- The verse reinforces self-discipline: doing one's best is not an occasional act, but an everyday habit ("And do it every day").
- Wisdom for youth: "That is the wisest way."

COMMON STUDENT ERRORS & QUICK FIXES

- **Lowercase Line Openers:** Writing **and do it every day**. Remind child: "Poetry lines ALWAYS begin with a Capital letter, even after a comma!"
- **Misplacing Semicolon / Commas:** Overlooking the punctuation at the end of Lines 1, 2, and 3.
- **Spelling of "Wisest":** Writing **wises** or **wize**. Teach the root word *wise* + superlative suffix *-est*.

SCORING RUBRIC (10 POINTS TOTAL)

Poetic Line Capitalization (Lines 1–4)	3 pts
Copywork Accuracy & Punctuation	3 pts
Comprehension & Rhyme Match (Q5–7)	2 pts
Personal Application & Handwriting (Q8)	2 pts