What to do today

1. Read ‘Things I have been doing lately’ by Allan Ahlberg
   • Practise reading the poem in your head. Then try reading it out loud.
   • Write a bit about this poem on the sheet What do you like? Or dislike?

2. Make up your own ideas
   • Think of some items for a poem called: Things I did last week. Make these as imaginative as you can, e.g. Last week, I battled a ferocious dragon. Last week, I discovered long-lost treasure. Last week, I invented a contraption for travelling through time.
   • Look at the nouns, verbs and adjectives that you have used and try to improve some so that they are really vivid and memorable. Use the Revision Card to help you remember the types of words.

3. Present your poem
   • Choose your favourite items and carefully handwrite a version of your poem.
   • When you have finished, add an illustration.

Try these Fun-Time Extras

   • Find someone that you can perform your poem to. Make actions for the verbs so that your performance is dramatic.
   • Make a new poem: Things I will do in the future. Be as imaginative as you can.
Things I Have Been Doing Lately

Things I have been doing lately:
Pretending to go mad
Eating my own cheeks from the inside
Growing taller
Keeping a secret
Keeping a worm in a jar
Keeping a good dream going
Picking a scab on my elbow
Rolling the cat up in a rug
Blowing bubbles in my spit
Making myself dizzy
Holding my breath
Pressing my eyeballs so that I become temporarily blind
Being very nearly ten
Practising my signature . . .

Saving the best till last.

Allan Ahlberg

p269, The Works
What do I like? Or Dislike?

• What do you like about this poem?


• Is there anything that you dislike about it?


• Can you spot any patterns?


• Which is your favourite phrase or line?


• Are there any puzzles or surprises?


**Revision Card**

**Nouns and Pronouns**
*Can you remember?*

A **noun** is... a person, place or thing.

*Proper nouns* start with a ... capital letter.

A **pronoun**... can replace a noun.

- feather
- bear
- rain
- words
- imagination
- night
- Paddington
- Robert
- Tuesday
- he
- them
- she
- it
- I
- his

**Adjectives**
*Can you remember?*

An **adjective** describes... a noun.

An **adjective** can be modified.

- bold
- bouncy
- younger
- wet
- half-made
- light
- very
- really
- quite

- very bouncy
- really wet
- quite light

**Verbs**
*Can you remember?*

A **verb** is a... *doing* or *being* word.

**Verbs** usually have **tense**.

- collect
- do
- is
- am
- dance
- think
- will collect
- collected
- auxiliary verbs

Some **verbs** help the **main verb**.

- I
- am
- dancing
- He
- has
- collected
Things I did Last Week Ideas

• Think of surprising and unusual things.
• Choose powerful verbs, precise nouns and descriptive adjectives.