

Poems, Riddles, Tongue Twisters for Children

Compiled by Aynura Huseinova

Short poems, riddles and tongue twisters are used to help children develop their verbal skills. Usually the children recite these poems, riddles and tongue-twisters in front of guests.

POEMS

Xoruz

Ay pipiyi qan xoruz,
Gözləri mərcan xoruz,
Sən nə tezden durursan,
Qışqırıb banlayırsan,
Qoymursan yatmağa,
Ay gözü mərcan xoruz!

Rooster

Hey, rooster with the bloody red comb,
With (shiny) pearl-like eyes.
You wake up so early in the morning,
And scream and crow,
You don't let me sleep,
Hey, rooster with the pearl-like eyes!

Keçi

Ala-bula boz keçi,
Ay qoşa buynuz keçi,
Yalnız gəzib dolanma,
Dağa-daşa dırmanma.
Bir qurd çıxsın qarşına,
Sən nə edərsən ona?
Çoban açınca gözün,
Qalar iki buynuzun.

Goat

Hey, goat of many shades of gray,
With twin horns,
Don't hang around alone,
Don't climb up the mountains and rocks,
If a wolf comes upon you,
What are you going to do?

*By the time the shepherd hears you
Nothing will be left of you except your two horns!*

RIDDLES

Gəlirdim kənddən,
Səs verdi bərkədən,
Ağzı sümükdən,
Saqqalı ətdən.

Cavab: Xoruz

As I was coming from the town,
Something made a loud sound,
Whose mouth is of bone,
Whose beard is of meat.

Answer: Rooster

Agaca çıxdım adamla,
Bir nəlbəki badamla,
Nə dili var, nə ağzı,
Hey danışır adamla.

Cavab: Kitab

I climbed the tree with a person,
And a plate of almonds.
What is it that has neither tongue nor mouth,
But talks to you all the time?

Answer: Book

LULLABIES

Balam lay-lay, a lay-lay,
Körpə quzum, a lay-lay,
Sən dal şirin yuxuya,
Çəkim keşiyin lay-lay.

My baby, lay-lay,
My small lamp, lay-lay,
May you have a sweet sleep,
I'll watch over you, lay-lay.

Lay-lay balam, yatasan,
Şirin yuxu tapasan,

Şirin yuxu içində
Qızılgülə batasan.

Lay-lay, my baby, sleep,
Have a sweet sleep,
In your sweet dreams
Be lost in roses.

WISHES SUNG BY MOTHERS OR GRANDMOTHERS

Balama qurban inəklər,
Balam nə vaxt iməklər.

May all the cows be sacrificed for my baby,
When my baby [starts to] crawl.

Balama qurban ilanlar,
Balam nə vaxt dil anlar,

May all the snakes be sacrificed for my baby,
When my baby [starts to] speak.

The words “cow” and “snake” are traditionally used in these samples and were chosen for the sheer sake of creating rhyme and rhythm. For example: “cows” / “crawl” as (inəklər / iməklər) and “snakes” / “speak” as (ilanlar / dil anlar).

TONGUE TWISTERS

Parents teach these delightful, nonsensical ditties to their children so that they will gain dexterity when speaking in Azeri.

Aşpaz Abbas aş asmış,
Asmışsa da az asmış.
(s; ş and z are confusing here.)

Qırx küp, qulup qırq küp.
(u and ı can easily be confused here.) ■