

POETRY CHALLENGE 2: Mother Doesn't Want a Dog

Can you guess the missing words in the poem? (You don't have to guess 'correctly' - you might come up with something different but just as great!)

MOTHER DOESN'T WANT A DOG

Mother doesn't want a dog.
Mother says they smell,
And never sit when you say sit,
Or even when you ****. [answer rhymes with smell]

And when you come home late at night
And there is ice and snow,
You have to go back out because
The dumb dog wants to **.

Mother doesn't want a dog.
Mother says they shed,
And always let the strangers in
And bark at friends ins***d

And do disgraceful things on rugs
And track mud on the floor,
And flop upon your bed at night
And snore their doggy *****

Mother doesn't want a dog.
She's making a mistake.
Because, more than a dog, I think
She will not want this *****.

JUDITH VIORST (1931-)

QUESTIONS:

1. Judith Viorst isn't writing as herself, she's pretending to be another person, which we call the 'narrator'. Can you picture the narrator of this poem? How old are they? Male or female? What might they look like? What kind of character are they (are they shy, funny, etc)? (You can find the full text of the poem here: <https://poets.org/poem/mother-doesnt-want-dog>)

CHALLENGE:

Can you write a short poem about one of your pets (or a pet you might like to have)? You could use the same rhyming pattern as this poem or try a different style? Different poems have different rhyming patterns, and in this poem the pattern is that the second line of each stanza (verse) rhymes with the fourth line of each stanza.

FURTHER NOTES AND IDEAS:

Poetry is often thought of as a literary and serious form of writing, but many poems are very funny and playful. Use the internet to look up the poem 'Be Glad Your Nose is on Your Face' by Jack Prelutsky – I hope it makes you smile.