

## MEMORIZE A POEM A MONTH

Have you ever broken a toy or lost something you valued very much? How did you feel about your loss?

Read through the poem "Suppose." To whom is the author talking?

Read the first stanza again. What does a girl usually do when she breaks her doll? Does crying over a broken doll make it whole again? According to the author, what should a girl say when she breaks her doll? Do you agree with him? Give reasons for your answer.

Read the second stanza slowly and try to understand it. Have you ever been told to do a difficult piece of work? Did you start it right away? How did you feel? Which is the wise thing to do when you have a hard work before you?

Read and understand the following:  
 task — work  
 fret — complain  
 dunce — a foolish person  
 in earnest — with all your might

Read the two stanzas aloud. Show by your reading that you understand the lines. Remember as many expres-

sions as you can. Read each stanza several times until you remember the lines. Recite the poem to yourself. Refer to the poem when you cannot go on. Read it aloud many times until you can recite it without looking.

Whenever you worry over a happening that cannot be helped, recite the poem to yourself. When you feel like leaving a piece of work undone, recite it.

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### SUPPOSE

*By Phoebe Cary*

Suppose, my little lady,

Your doll should break her head,  
 Could you make it whole by crying

Till your eyes and nose are red?  
 And wouldn't it be pleasanter

To treat it as a joke,  
 And say you're glad "'Twas Dolly's  
 And not your head that broke"?

Suppose your task, my little man,  
 Is very hard to get,

Will it make it any easier  
 For you to sit and fret?

And wouldn't it be wiser  
 Than waiting like a dunce,

To go to work in earnest  
 And learn the thing at once?