

MEMORIZE A POEM A MONTH



Do you remember the first doll you had? How did you feel when you first held it in your arms?

Read the poem "The Dear Old Doll" through. After the first reading, you should be able to tell who is talking in the poem. Try to tell in a sentence how dear the doll was to her.

Read the first stanza again. Try to see the pictures in your mind in the order in which they come in the stanza. Answering these questions will help you. What had the girl once? Describe the doll. What happened one day? How did the girl feel?

Read the second stanza. What do the first two lines say? How did the doll look then? Read the three lines that tell how the doll's looks had changed. What do the last two lines say about the girl's feeling toward the doll?

These words may be difficult: heath, trodden off.

A heath is a piece of land overgrown with a kind of weed.

trodden off—stepped on until broken.

THE DEAR OLD DOLL

By Charles Kingsley

I had once a sweet little doll, dears
 The prettiest doll in the world;
 Her cheeks were so red and so white,
 dears,
 And her hair was charmingly curled.
 But I lost my poor little doll, dears,
 As I played in the heath one day;
 And I cried for her more than a week,
 dears,
 But I never could find where she lay.

I found my poor little doll, dears,
 As I played in the heath one day;
 Folks say that she is terribly changed,
 dears,
 For her paint is all washed away,
 And her arm trodden off by the cows,
 dears,
 And her hair not the least bit curled;
 Yet, for old sake's sake, she is still,
 dears,
 The prettiest doll in the world.

Read the poem several times until you can remember the lines. Recite it to yourself, looking at the line when you cannot go on. Then recite it to someone at home who knows English.