

1 I should've listened to Dad and Mum.  
 "Don't be a guts!" they'd warned as one.  
 But no, I knew best – 'twas just a small snack,  
 A million or so chips, right out of the pack.

2 I washed them down with a bottle of pop,  
 And an ice-cream cone that had melted to slop.  
 I squeezed in a hot dog and a caramel shake,  
 And chased it all down with some rich chocolate cake.

3 I clambered aboard the *Whirlwind Chaotic*.  
 Sort of like *swing-out-chairs*, only robotic.  
 Lapping at lightspeed, I felt such a clown,  
 When my seat joined the fray and flipped upside-down.



4 Round and around, thrown left and then right,  
 I realised my parents had decent foresight.  
 Out of my mouth and through nostrils too,  
 Spurred my meals like boggy broth stew.

5 It all rained down on the public below -  
 An orange and green storm of wet chunky snow.  
 I saw an old man wiping muck from his eye.  
 Pretending to whistle, I looked to the sky.

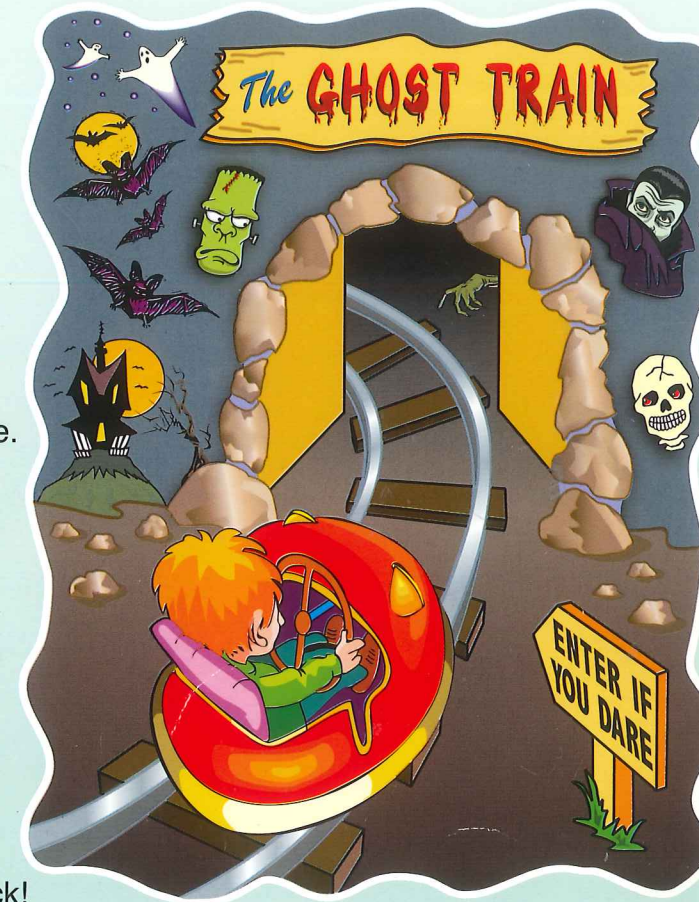
6 The sample-bag hall was next on my list,  
 Bags of lollies and charms not to be missed.  
 Apart from the liquorice, the chocolates and candy,  
 The bags contained toys – they'd come in handy.

7 Two certain items grabbed at my eye –  
 I headed to the *Ghost Train* to give them a try.  
 As my carriage ker-clanked down into a cave  
 The first thing I saw was a freshly dug grave.

8 Wild black bats circled a castle of stone,  
 Above a rickety bridge that was way overgrown.  
 A troll-masked man hid under that bridge.  
 He loved to scare kids as they rounded the ridge.

9 Now it was my turn to backfire his task.  
 From out of my samples I pulled loose a mask:  
 A vampire one, a monstrous thing.  
 Then I unpacked my can of foul *crazy-string*.

10 I ducked down low, way out of sight.  
 Now it was my turn to repay the fright.  
 With spooky intent the troll leapt onto the track.  
 That's when I jumped up . . . and he jumped back!



- 11 With a crash and a splash, he spilled into the lake. Well, surprise, surprise – the swamp wasn't fake. He glared up at me, his teeth firmly set, His bedraggled form dripping, wetter than wet.
- 12 That's when I let fly with a jet of *crazy-string* spray, Trapping troll man in goo - that'd make his day. "Stop scaring kids!" I warned, rattling past. I heard him groan something, but I was out of there fast!
- 13 When I arrived home, Dad asked about my day. 'I hope you didn't overeat . . . and I hope you behaved' I thought of that spewy ride, and the troll that got wet. I just smiled innocently and answered, "YOU BET."



## Questions

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 What was the last thing the narrator ate?<br>a a caramel shake<br>b rich chocolate cake<br>c boggy broth stew   | 4 The first thing the narrator saw on the <i>Ghost Train</i> was<br>a a castle of stone.<br>b a freshly dug grave.<br>c a rickety bridge.  |
| 2 What did the narrator do when he noticed the man wiping his eye?<br>a He pretended to whistle.<br>b He felt like a clown.<br>c He realised that his parents had decent foresight. | 5 What was <i>not</i> in the sample bag?<br>a a troll mask<br>b a vampire mask<br>c crazy-string   |
| 3 What would come in handy?<br>a liquorice<br>b chocolates and candy<br>c toys  | 6 What happens at the end of the poem?<br>a The narrator tells his parents the truth.<br>b The narrator lies to his parents.<br>c The narrator doesn't think that he did anything wrong. |

## Vocabulary

Find words in the text that match the meanings below. The word is in the stanza shown in brackets.

- 7 Climbed on awkwardly (3)  
8 Something that is fitting or proper (4)  
9 Shaky or unstable (8)  
10 To act with a purpose or plan (10)  
11 The opposite of guiltily (13)

## Grammar

Some words can be joined with an apostrophe and these are called **contractions**. E.g. *it is* becomes *it's*.

Match the **contractions** from the text.

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| 12 should've | that is     |
| 13 they'd    | was not     |
| 14 wasn't    | should have |
| 15 that's    | they would  |

## Back To The Text...

- 16 Which ride is shown in the main illustration on the front of the card?  
a *The Ghost Train*.  
b *The Whirlwind Chaotic*.
- 17 Look at the front image. The *Ghost Train* tickets are  
a green.      b purple.
- 18 The tone of this poem is  
a serious.      b humorous.

## Challenge Option

Writing: Describe your favourite ride at a fair?



## Think About This

- 19 Look back through the poem to find what happened first. Choose **a** or **b**.  
a They got liquorice, chocolates and candy.  
b They ate a hot dog and caramel shake.
- 20 When a poet compares one thing to another it is called a 'simile'. In which line do we find the simile in stanza 4?  
a Round and round ...  
b I realised my parents ...  
c Out of my mouth ...  
d Spurred my meals ...
- 21 When a poet uses a word that is also a sound, it is called 'onomatopoeia'. In which line do we find onomatopoeia used in stanza 7?  
a Two certain items ...  
b I headed to ...  
c As my carriage ...  
d The first thing ...
- 22 When a poet exaggerates something, it is called 'hyperbole'. In which line do we find hyperbole used in stanza 1?  
a I should've listened ...  
b "Don't be a guts!" ...  
c But no, I knew ...  
d A million or so ...
- 23 How do we know that this person has been to this fair before?  
a Mum and Dad let them go alone.  
b They were sick on the *Whirlwind Chaotic*.  
c They were ready to repay the troll.