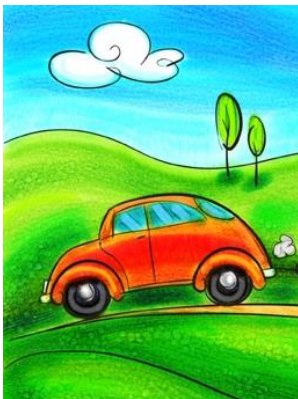


The Driving Lesson¹

Road safety

- A Please will you teach us to drive Mum,
B It can't do any harm?
A There's plenty of open spaces
Out there on the farm.
- B Come on Mum and climb in,
I'm putting her into gear.
A Slowly down on the pedal,
Told you there's nothing to fear.
- B I'm starting to get the hang of this
It's really kind of fun.
A "Quickly Granddad, get out of the way."
I didn't know that Granddad could run!
- B Please will you stop screaming, Mum,
And why are you covering your eyes?
A There's no need to get hysterical.
Oh, that was a surprise.
- B It's your fault, you were distracting me
And we seem to have hit a bump.
A The tyre is looking rather flat,
Do we have a pump?
- B We seem to have a problem Mum,
Promise you won't get mad.
A I think there's someone under the wheel,
And it looks just like my Dad?



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The Driving Lesson²: Suggested activities

Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What sort of mood do you think the mother was in before getting into the car? Then once the car was moving? • Do you think the child was as excited once they were driving the car? • In what verse does the mood of the poem change? • In what way was the mother distracting the driver? • What is another word for hysterical? • What do you think the surprise was? • Explain the twist at the end of the poem. • Write down some words you think of after hearing this poem, e.g. animals, excited. • Write a sentence to explain what happened next. • Thinking about the surroundings, what would the farm animals have been thinking?
Drama based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readers Theatre: thinking about the mood of the mother and the child, read the poem in pairs alternating verses. • Join with another pair. Two students read the poem, and the other two do sound effects - such as the mother being hysterical; the Granddad; the car going over a bump. • "Slide Show": Act out the poem. • Do it again but this time add dialogue. • Write a short script for what the granddad would tell his friends. • Now act it out using your script.
Extension work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using non-rhyming dialogue act out a short scene about a driving lesson. Use two chairs. This can be based on the poem "The Driving Lesson," or on a similar story you have heard. • "Persuasion game": In pairs, have one try and persuade the other to: let them drive the car; take them somewhere; not tell anyone what happened. • Have a class discussion or debate about the driving age in New Zealand. Look at, and discuss road statistics. • Invite a traffic officer or accident victim in to talk about their experiences.
Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read to the punctuation. • Speak clearly and don't rush. • Use different voices for different characters. • Use your face to show what is happening in the scene, e.g. excitement, fear, anxiety, panic.

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