



Listening and pronunciation

Rhyme and reason

- 1  10.9 Close your eyes and listen to a poem by Lewis Carroll from *The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland*. It is a conversation between a son and his father. Answer the questions.
- Is the poem light-hearted or serious? How do you know?
 - What is the relationship between the son and father? Is it respectful or disrespectful?
 - Which of the son's questions can you remember? How does the father answer?
 - What do you learn about the father's life?
- 2 Work with a partner. Read the poem. Discuss which word best fills the gaps. It helps to read the poem aloud as you do this.
- 3  10.9 Compare your version with others in the class. Justify your choice of words. Listen again. Whose was closest to the original?

What do you think?

- How old do you think the son and his father are?
- The poem was written in the 1860s. Which vocabulary links it to this period?
- Which words describe the father? Which the son?

eccentric	inquisitive	irritable
rude	judgemental	nosy
patient	witty	

- How do you think old people *should* behave? Why?

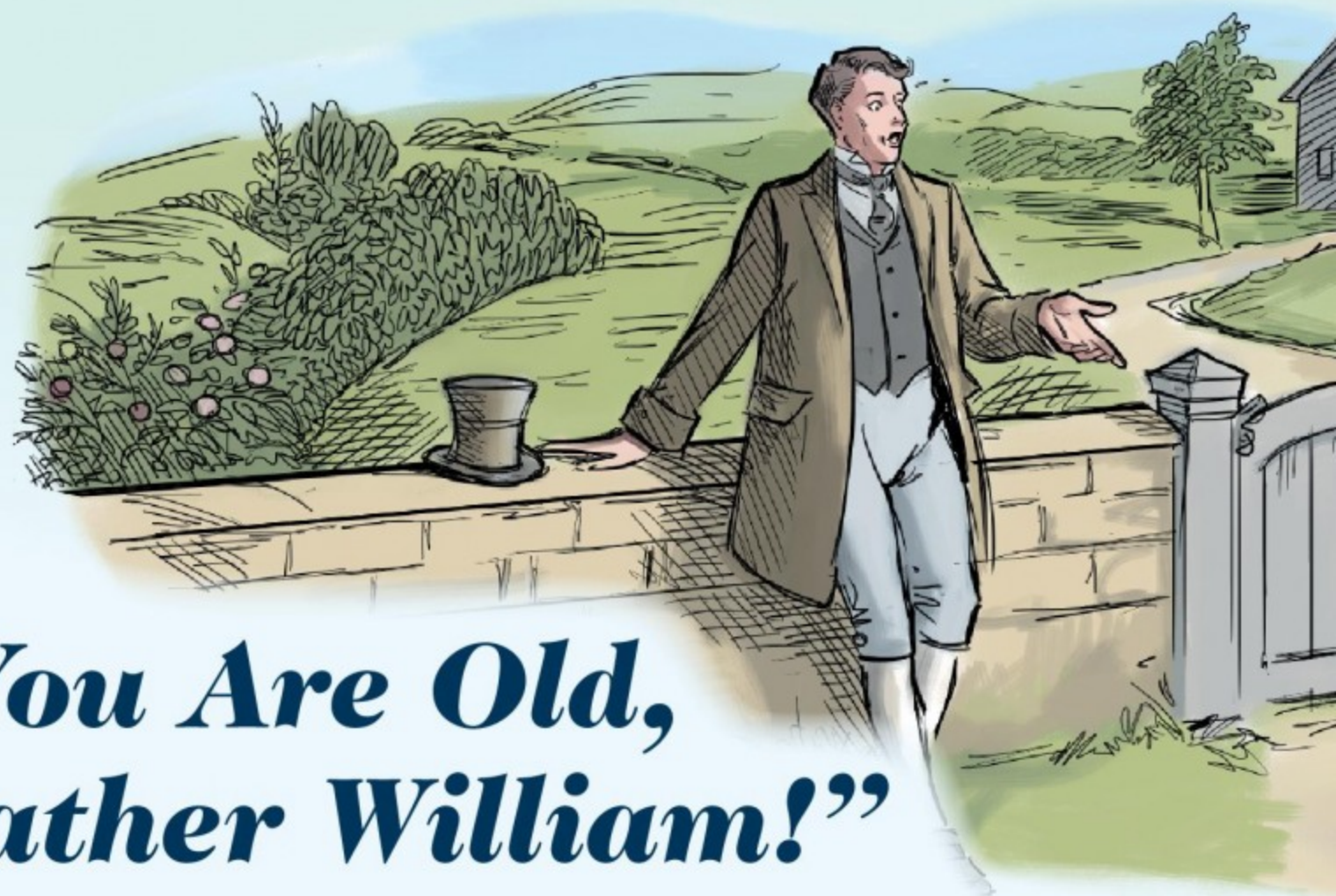
Writing your own poem

- 4 Some schoolchildren wrote poems modelled on Lewis Carroll's. Read this one aloud.

*"You are old, Uncle John," the young girl did say,
"Yet you spend six hours a day at the gym,
And you jog down the road before break of day
Pray, why keep yourself so very trim?"*

*"In my youth," Uncle John replied to his niece
"I was hugely, disgustingly fat,
But now that I've met a young lady from Greece
Motivation has got rid of that!"*

- 5 Work with your partner and write a similar poem. Read it aloud to the class.



"You Are Old, Father William!"

by Lewis Carroll

"You are old, Father William," the young man said,
"And your hair has become very white;
And yet you incessantly stand on your ¹ _____.
Do you think, at your age, it is ² _____?"

"In my youth," Father William replied to his son,
"I feared it might injure the ³ _____;
But, now that I'm perfectly sure I have ⁴ _____,
Why, I do it again and again."

"You are old," said the youth, "as I ⁵ _____ before,
And have grown most ⁶ _____ fat,
Yet you turned a back somersault in at the door,
Pray what is the reason of that?"

"In my youth," said the sage, as he shook his grey ⁷ _____,
"I kept all my limbs very ⁸ _____
By the use of this ointment – one shilling the box –
Allow me to sell you a couple?"

"You are old," said the youth, "and your jaws are too weak
For anything tougher than ⁹ _____;
Yet you finished the goose, with the bones and the ¹⁰ _____.
Pray, how did you manage to do it?"

"In my youth," said his father, "I took to the law,
And argued each ¹¹ _____ with my wife;
And the muscular strength which it gave to my ¹² _____,
Has lasted the rest of my life."

"You are old," said the youth, "one would hardly suppose
That your eye was as ¹³ _____ as ever;
Yet you balanced an eel on the end of your nose –
What made you so awfully ¹⁴ _____?"

"I have answered three questions and that is enough,"
Said his father. "Don't give yourself ¹⁵ _____!
Do you think I can listen all day to such ¹⁶ _____?
Be off, or I'll kick you downstairs!"