

## POEM RESOURCE SHEETS

### 2. FAMILY POEMS



Dear Mum,

While you were out  
A cup went and broke itself,  
A crack appeared in the blue vase  
Your great-great grandad  
Brought back from Mr Ming in China.  
Somehow, without me even turning on the tap,  
The sink mysteriously overflowed.  
A strange jam-stain,  
About the size of a boy's hand,  
Appeared on the kitchen wall.  
I don't think we will ever discover  
Exactly how the cat  
Managed to turn on the washing-machine  
(especially from the inside),  
or how Sis's pet rabbit went and mistook  
the waste-disposal unit for a burrow.  
I can tell you I was scared when,  
As if by magic,  
A series of muddy footprints  
Appeared on the new white carpet.  
I was being good  
(honest)  
but I think the house is haunted so,  
knowing you're going to have a fit,  
I've gone over to Gran's for a bit.

*Brian Patten*

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### Kids

"Sit up straight,"  
Said mum to Mabel.  
"Keep your elbows  
Off the table.  
Do not eat peas  
Off a fork.  
Your mouth is full -  
Don't try and talk.  
Keep your mouth shut  
When you eat.  
Keep still or you'll  
Fall off your seat.  
If you want more,  
You will say "please".  
Don't fiddle with  
That piece of cheese!"  
If then we kids  
Cause such a fuss,  
Why do you go on  
Having us?



### Thank You, Dad, for Everything

Thank you for laying the carpet, Dad,  
Thank you for showing us how,  
But what is that lump in the middle, Dad?  
And why is it saying mia-ow?

*Doug MacLeod*

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### Daddy Fell into the Pond

Everyone grumbled. The sky was grey.  
We had nothing to do and nothing to say.  
We were nearing the end of dismal day.  
And there seemed to be nothing beyond.

*Then*

*Daddy fell into the pond!*

And everyone's face grew merry and  
bright,  
And Timothy danced for sheer delight.  
Give me the camera, quick, oh quick!  
He's crawling out of the duckweed! Click!

Then the gardener suddenly slapped his  
knee,  
And doubled up, shaking silently,  
And the ducks all quacked as if they were  
daft,  
And it sounded as if the old drake  
laughed.

Oh, there wasn't a thing that didn't  
respond

*When*

*Daddy fell into the pond!*

*Alfred Noyes*

### Appreciation

Auntie, did you feel no pain  
Falling from that willow tree?  
Will you do it, please again?  
'Cos my friend here didn't see.

*Harry Graham*