Book 1 of the Poodle Series


Instructor Manual

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This book features QR codes that link to audio of Michael Clay Thompson narrating the text so that readers can follow along.

The Island, Town, and Voyage levels of the language arts curriculum by Michael Clay Thompson feature art by Milton N. Kemnitz (1911-2005). Christopher Tice has incorporated Mr. Kemnitz's art into many of the illustrations in this book, providing a degree of visual continuity between this volume and the more advanced levels of the curriculum.

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## Prologue: <br> Poodle and What?

There once was a chicken named Poodle who called a cool cock-a-do-doodle.

He ate not just any old noodle but gobbled the kit and caboodle, including the strudel; it's truedle. He ate oodles.
vocabulary: CABOODLE the whole quantity

Chicken Poodle liked sweets, which in bird-world is rare, but what did he care?
He clucked with such flair, eating his treats and increasing the heat to his beets and his wheats and steamed soups, which he scooped as they thickened
like glue, like goops.

assonance:<br>noodle oodles<br>caboodle strudel<br>soups scooped<br>glue goops



The period after the question mark is part of the fun. What?'s name is What?.
internal rhyme: rhyme chime time

Chicken Poodle liked dogsat least one. Not every bird does (it's not done).
His best friend, he thought, was a beagle named What?. Wait, what was that name? It was What?.

Alliteration is the repetition of initial sounds.

Yes.
Yes, What? was What?'s name.
It was always the same, for the word what means What? all the time.
What? wiggled and waggled and struggled to bark, but all that came out
alliteration: wiggled waggled was a barky remark, such as "What?" and then "What?" and then "What?" like a rhyme, like "What-what-what-what-what-what?"
like a sound in an arc,
like a chime in quick time, and when Poodle asked why, the beagle barked, "What?" Poodle sighed.

Was What? asking a question? A doggy expression?
In every new session, What? only said, "What? What-what-what-what-what?"

Sometimes What?'s flopping ears were flapping in fear, with his tongue dangling out to the right
and his eyes open wide-what a sightbut Poodle would settle What?'s fears with green spears of asparagus, ready to bite.

Poodle loved words, as you've probably heardeven copied the words of the birds: tweety tweet!
Herds of birds (we call flocks) all worried and scurried as Poodle spoke bird-words in talks. Hear that birdy-bird sound?
Tweedle-deet.
internal rhyme: repeat sweet tweet word bird

When birdies said, "Tweet," he'd repeat. It was sweet because tweet is a word to a bird.

> What? only barked, "What?" You see it?

Poodle loved bird-tweety words.


> Poodle loved words for their beautiful looks, like small sculptures in books,
> like thirst with its th and its $t$ rising up. Up th, down irs, up $t$ it makes th-irs-t.

But poof and goof both go low at the start, with the $p$ and the $g$ hanging down: little art.

Some ups, some downshere's the proof: thptgfpthg. That sounds like thah-paht-gaff-paht-ha-gah. What?

It is important to grow up seeing what words look like.
Only hearing words
provides no idea
of spelling or
of the beauty
of word shapes.
We love the beauty
of the ascenders
such as $h$ and $f$
and the descenders such as $p$ and $j$.
end rhyme:
swung tongue

Poodle also liked bumpy old m'sthat was himand liked all the la-dee-da-l's that rolled off so well when they swung off his chickeny tongue.
He liked oo's that go hoo in the night like blue circles: oo-oo! What a fright, right?

Poodle liked z's, with their zig-zags-oh pleaseturning right and then left with a zip like a wheeze.

What? saw none of that. What? just barked, "What? What-what-what-what-what?"
end
rhyme: breeze bees knees
with his tongue in the breeze, in the air like the bees.
Poodle just sighed and sank to his knees.

It is good to look at homophones such as FOWLS and FOULS or
LOCH and LOCK.

Oh, Poodle loved words for their beautiful vowels, such as $a, e, i, o$, and then $u$ (that's all of them-whew), for the vowels loved by fowlsthat's different from foulslike the ooo howl in soon, or the eee vowel in wheel, or the oh sound in home, or the ow sound in growl or in owl or in prowl, or the eee sound in peel. It was such a big deal.

He loved scratchity words, like snicker and snake, and chicken and quicken, and shaking and fake, and caulk and block, and gawk and, yes, loch, which sounds just like lock when we talk.

He loved growly-grr words that begin with a grrr, like gravel and grotto and grubby and gear, like gruffly and grunt and grody and grub,
like grimly and grabbing and grub-a-dub-dub.

## Not What?

## What? just barked, "What?

What-what-what-what-what?"
"Words," Poodle told him.
"Words," Poodle said.
"I'm talking 'bout words;
Note the
divergent spellings of the rhyming words SAID, AHEAD, and PLED. there are eight kinds ahead in the language," he pled.

What? said, "What?"
What? was hopeless.

There are eight kinds of words, to be clear, and the nouns are the firstnot the worst-to appear. They won't burst, not these words, oh never you fear. It means there are eight kinds to hear! Let's rehearse.

So here's a noun: thirst. We make this admission: thirst names a condition, so dry. Nouns name things, aye; that's their mission. See why?

What? (nope) saw nothing; he only barked, "What?" and his tail waggled left and then right like a shot.

"Words," said the bird, but the beagle, confused, seemed so unenthused. How could he choose

There is
an incredible variety of spellings in confused, unenthused, choose, bruise, blues, dues, fuse, cruise, shoes, and whose. among words such as bruise, or blues, or dues, or fuse, or cruise, or shoes?

He was only a beagle, whose mind quickly blurred.

What? was a beagle, not a seagull or eagle, not legal or regal, not a beetle-just a beagle. "What-what-what-what-what?"

Yes, Poodle loved words, but What? just barked, "What?"
"How 'bout fog," Poodle tried as he thought of gray morn.


> What? barked, "What? What-what-what-what what?"
> like a croaky big frog with big froggy eyes, and Poodle just mourned for What?'s one-word replies.
vocabulary:
FORLORN
sad and
abandoned

Poodle felt so forlorn.
His thinking was worn.
That's our prologue of Poodle the chicken and What? the dog.

As the prologue ended, Poodle looked down and noticed the bottom of the page.

On this page the fourth wall breaks, and the animals know they are in a book.
"See?" said the author. "It's right below this sentence."


## noun

## The name of a person, a place, or a thing:

> Fred, Florida flapjack

# Chapter One: Nouns 

Notice
way day
say survey
weigh bouquet beret affray.

> It happened this way, one wind-willowy day, that Poodle did say to What?, "What?, let us survey the noun. Let us weigh some with sounds like bouquet, vocabulary: AFFRAY public fighting that disturbs the peace or beret, or affray."
vocabulary: ARRAY a display or range of a particular thing; a vast array of literature

Nouns are names, Poodle thought. The language has got an array of them, lots, as it ought, but What? had not caught
perfect rhyme: thought got lots ought not caught plot knots, and What? is a near rhyme this plot. His mind was in knots.

What? just barked, "What?"


