**“Sick” by Shel Silverstein**

**A Short Poetry Analysis**

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Shel Silverstein’s poem “Sick” is about a little girl named Peggy Ann McKay who does not want to go to school, so she invents a number of illnesses. Silverstein uses hyperbole and rhyme to connect the child reader. According to *Module 5: Poetry*, authors hyperbole to exaggerate something for dramatic effect (Module 5). Peggy Ann’s constant list of complaints, such as her brain shrinking and having both the measles and the mumps, are not only over the top but will probably remind the child reader of the time they might have told a similar story (lines 3 and 27). The module also discusses the importance of repetition and rhyming in connecting to the reader as it will make it more enjoyable. Silverstien relies heavily on rhyme, keeping the repetitious vowel sounds at the end of each line, such as “mumps and bumps,” – even McKay is rhymed with the word, “today” (lines 1-4). By using hyperbole and rhyme, Silverstien creates a hilarious poem that children will enjoy.

**References**

“Module 5: Poetry.” (n.d.) Seneca College. Retrieved January 19, 2021

Silverstein, Shel. (2004). “Sick.” Harper Collins Publishers.

Work Cited

Brothers, Grimm. (1857). Cinderella. Retrieved from: https://germanstories.vcu.edu/grimm/cinder.html