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| **How to Tackle a Tongue Twister** |
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| A Tongue Twister poem is made up of lines/verses that are hard to say when read aloud by using similar consonant sounds in succession (use of alliteration). In other words, the poem ties your tongue into knots. This form does not require end or internal rhyme.  Take the first stanza of "Betty Botter" as an example*:*  **Betty Botter bought some butter.  But, she said, "This butter’s bitter.  If I bought some better batter,  It would make my butter better.**  If you wanted to change it up a bit, but start with the same “Betty Botter” idea, it could become..:  **Betty Botter bought a bucket.  But she said, "This bucket’s broken."  If I use it as a bailer,  I would be a rotten sailor.**  Now, it’s the beginning of a nice little rhyming poem.  Here’s a rhyming version of "She Sells Sea Shells."  **She sells sea shells by the sea shore. She’d sell more shells in a shell store.**  **How to do it? Here are the steps…**  1. Make four lists: nouns, proper nouns, verbs, and descriptive words (adjectives and adverbs) that begin with a particular letter (e.g., "B"). For example:  **Nouns** bubbles brother  **Names** Bobby Baxter Boris  **Verbs** burst bawl  **Describers** broken  2. Write down the first line of a story that makes sense. For example:  **Bobby Baxter burst a bubble.**  3. Add a second line, using words from your list, that advances the story, for example:  **Bobby Baxter burst a bubble (A)  Bobby’s brother Boris blew.** (**B**)  4. Now you can figure out the rhythm and rhyme pattern of the poem you’ve started and continue it in the next two lines. The rhyme pattern is going to be ABAB.  5. The rhythm pattern is going to be:  DUM da DUM da DUM da DUM da (A)  DUM da DUM da DUM da DUM (B)  DUM da DUM da DUM da DUM da (A)  DUM da DUM da DUM da DUM (B)  6. Now you can complete the poem:  **Bobby Baxter burst a bubble  Bobby’s brother Boris blew.  Bobby’s brother began bawling  Boris cried, boo hoo, boo hoo.**  **The Assignment:**  Write a Tongue Twister.   * It must be at least 6 lines long and have alliteration, consonance, etc. in every line. * It does NOT have to rhyme. * Choose the method of writing you would like for your poem below:  1. You can start with a favorite tongue twister ("Betty Botter" or "Peter Piper") and revise it as the examples above detail.   **OR**  B. You can make lists of words starting with the same letter or sound, then write your own tongue twisters.   * But no matter how you start, it should tell a story that makes sense, uses lots of tongue-twisting consonants or sound effects, and have a pleasing rhythm (same beats per line) and/or a rhyme pattern.   Here’s a new version of "Betty Botter" following the directions & choosing Option A:  **Betty Botter’s Biting Beaver**  **Betty Botter bought a beaver.  But the beastly beaver bit her.  So she bought a biting badger.  And the badger bit the beaver.  Since the badger bit the beaver,  now the beaver will not bite her.  So ‘twas better Betty Botter  bought a beaver-biting badger.**  (credit: Bruce Lansky) |