

Duck's Ditty

1. What is a "ditty"?

A ditty is a short, simple song.

2. Where are the ducks?

They are on the river.

3. What are the ducks doing?

They are swimming and looking under the water for food.

4. What do these words mean? Look them up in a dictionary and write their meaning down. Do they have more than one meaning, depending on the context (situation) in which they are used? If they do, write the 'river' meaning down.

a. backwater

This is a part of the river not reached by the current, where the water is stagnant (it doesn't flow and often has an unpleasant smell)

b. rushes

They are tall plants/flowering plants that grow by the edge of a river.

c. dabbling

To put hands or feet partially in water and move them around gently. The ducks' heads and feet are in the water and moving around gently.

d. bill

This is another word for a duck's beak.

e. uptail

The ducks are putting their heads and half their bodies underwater as they look for food and their tails are up above the water.

5. Add these words and their river meaning to your river glossary.

6. Which words are repeated in the poem?

a-dabbling, Up tails all!

WE, Ducks, tails, Yellow

(very common words are repeated too - all, the, and)

7. Why might the poet use this "repetitive words" technique?

To give emphasis to what the ducks are doing. The ducks keep doing the same actions, so the poet repeats what they are they doing. This is what Rat sees the ducks doing.

8. How does the film clip or listening to it help our understanding of the poem?

The film clip lets you see what Rat, Mole and the ducks are doing. You can see the ducks swimming and diving for food. The words of the poem are sung with expression.