

## WebQuest

### James Whitcomb Riley: A Journey of Poems

#### Introduction

You will have the opportunity to learn about James Whitcomb Riley's life and to read some of his poetry. After you gather information, you will write your own poem to be added to a class poetry book.

#### Process

##### Step 1

You will need a journal or other notebook to take notes as you go to each Web site.

##### Step 2

Visit each of the Web sites listed below and make notes of the kinds of subject matter Riley chose for his poems. Be sure to read some sample poems.

#### Web Sites:

- [James Whitcomb Riley Biography](#)
- [James Whitcomb Riley](#)
- [The Academy of American Poets](#) (Click **Find a Poem**, then click the letter "L" under the Search by Title category. Then click **Little Orphant Annie** to read the poem.)
- [The Poetry of James Whitcomb Riley](#)

##### Step 3

After you visit each site, take some time to add any additional information about Riley and his poems which you learned when reading the book.

##### Step 4

After you have completed your research, write a list of some subjects about which you would like to write a poem. Your poem can be about an everyday event, or a person or place (similar to Riley's poems). Pick one subject from your list and write a poem.

##### Step 5

Once your poem is complete, you will add it to the class poetry book.

#### Conclusion: Things to Think About

James Whitcomb Riley loved to watch ordinary people and things and to write poems about them. What kind of poem did you write? Is it rhyming or nonrhyming? How is it similar to Riley's poetry and how is it different?