

Riddles

1

My body has elegant curves
My neck is long an slender
With a bow I begin to sing
My voice is sometimes tender
Sometimes I screech
I can't speak without my strings
And never on a beach

Doris

My ladylike body, elegant and light
Carressed slightly by soft touches, mainly at night
Brings me to sing as long as it takes
Alone or together with friends

Bettina

I chuck their chins,
I've done it through more years
than they are given.
and with so much love.
They stroke me, slide me, glide
and pluck me tenderly,
caress me with a thousand touches.
I lift my voice, my heart, to them,
sing every colour of the gamut.
until the tree that bore me
sighs in every branch,
hums through each leaf, shrieks in the wind.
Afterwards my songs
run their melodies in the dark.

Anne Born

2

I once was part of a tree
In many rooms I'm seen
I carry a lot on me
Like other little fine trees
Covered with colours and letters
Which make you feel better.

Gudrun

I saw a great building with many storeys piled high
Where men and women jostled, all pressed together;
They clamoured aloud for each had a tale to tell:
I listened a while and came away wiser.

Tony Charles

3

I'm your digestion
– without producing any litter.
I'm the picture of your subconsciousness
– can't put me on a wall, though.
I'm the sweetest thing...
– not able to be swallowed-
... or bittertough
–no rest at all!
You can't catch me
Or urge me, nor influence me!
But keep me in your best memory,
anyway.

Manuela

I come up day and night.
I bring you all the feelings with me.
Once I'm a beast, then a lovely elf.
I tell you the future, but also the past.
You will die without me.

Priska

What we reminded you of you are already forgetting,
You are already imagining something new.
Close your eyes, remember the way we move:
In your sleepless nights we will help you to let go.

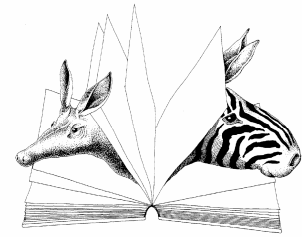
David Constantine

4

I'm really important, because I know a lot.
I travelled almost everywhere.
Sometimes I'm big and heavy,
sometimes I'm small and thin.
I'm always full
But nevertheless I hear people say:
"That's missing!"

Karin

There is a whole world involved in me.
Open me up and look. Like God, I give rise
to novelties like the *parbuckle*, the bright *pardelote*,
or pain-killing *paregoric*. It smacks of Eden
as you peer through my open gates and learn,
as if a perfect myth, from first to last, has done
what art and science can only dream of—
but beware, think of me as a crutch, or a friend,
as a fall-back for your ignorance only so far:
hard as you might look, you are not mentioned here.



Martyn Crucefix

5

I'm round and flat
Unfortunately I can't hear myself
I'm rich of notes and very light
But to enjoy me you need to know
how to use me right!

Kerstin

My skin shimmers with all the colours
of a rainbow, and you hold me like a feather,
so gently, afraid to smear my shine with
your fingertips, reading me closely, spinning
me in your mind, gently placing me
in the black box where I whirr
contentedly, singing with my silver tongue.

Charles Hadfield

6

Do you like shopping?
I will help you!
Fed me with a coin,
So all the things
I will carry you!
Drive me back,
but without a kick,
So I don't need
For my help any tip!

Barbara

Grab the beast by the horns.
Wrestle it down the narrow streets
till you break its will

to skitter its own way.
Subdue it. Burden its rib-cage.
Let your children ride.
And then let it stray.
Who cares? They'll send a herdsman
to round it up at the end of the day.

Stuart Henson

7

From earth and water do we come, essential things
We are prepared and to be found by salty air
And packed in paper disappear
To be transformed and hopefully enjoyed (with vinegar)

Victor

I use to be loved
By children and grown-ups
I'm a mixture of sea and soil
I'm peeled, cut and burnt
before swallowed
with audible pleasure

Franziska

I quake like Satan
in a burning lake.
At first too hot to take
I'm soon too cold.
I bring hot fingers to sell,
a tang of sea, I fill
a Street with my smell
and pile a plate with gold.

Herbert Lomas

8

I need sun and rain
and the sky as stage.
I'm colourful
but also an ordered phenomenon.
If rain stops
and sun is still available:
I will disappear.

Martina

I'm an old promise
Although my gold is never to be found
People still believe
I show them the bright side of life.

Hanna

I wear bright colours
And bow, gracefully, to the ground
But I'm fading away, fading away

Elma Mitchell

9

Be careful with me
You'll never reach the sweetest fruits without me
I'll help you to blow the cobweb away, out of the corners of the room
You're told to get bad luck when you pass under me

Eva (G)

The tall Wood twins
grip each other everywhere:
'It's all right, we're only
standing in for Lady Stair.'

Les Murray

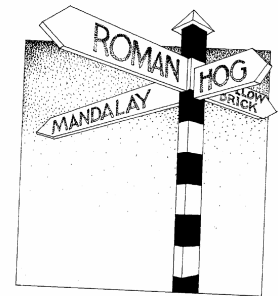
10

It looks like I'm lying down.
People need me - and how.
In wintertime, it can be - dangerous on me
Cars speed on me.
On hot summerdays I look like I sweat all over, but
There isn't not one drop of water,
Far and wide.

Annemarie

Through frost and snow and sunlight,
through rain and night and day
I go back to where I come from.
I pass all things, yet stay.

Brian Patten



11

My house is hard,
protecting when falling down,
what I do once.
If lucky, I get carried away,
Softness and warmth around me soon.
I wait for quit long,
Hope not to be remembered,
Before it is time to leave my safe home.

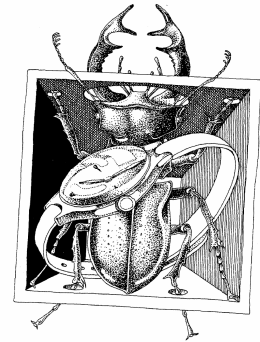
Renate

I am a very old being, collected by humans and animals since ancient times.
You need an instrument however to get to my core.
My core can be eaten whole or in pieces.
I might be hidden in your dessert today.

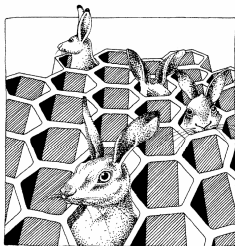
Ursi

I hang from a thin green rope
and sway in the wind and rain.
I guard my treasure in a wooden safe
which no one can steal
unless they first beat me to death.

Elizabeth Rapp



12



I'm not telling the time – although I could
But I'm giving you hope
I help you through books
And also through France
I don't like myself beginning with "well" and ending in "-ed"
You'll gone hate me with "screws".

Dorothea

I've got a brother
Who belongs to the same person as I
I've an important position
In the persons life
I'm busy from morning to night
Catching whatever comes my way
Four fellows help me do my job
Sometimes we are a group of ten

Ruth

Many creatures don't have one.
But I have two.
Each one is a loner, but lives with four brothers.
How well in a cradle this creature soothes.

Penelope Shuttle

13

I often hide,
I don't like hot weather,
Many people don't like to touch or eat me
I'm slow and I take a lot of time for my way and my dinner.

Susanna

I have horns, but am not beast,
though some would suck my flesh
drawn forth on spears

I walk the world on my stomach,
backwards down lanes of nails,
never leaving my house

follow my trail slowly —
my mould will still be unbroken
when I am gone

Gordon Wardman

14

How I hate ice-skating!
Not only am I afraid of my old school teacher
But also of the neighbours dog.
I'm fond of the nice sofa with all these fluffy cushions.
Sadly I never see my master's face.

Cornelia

You cover me up
And hide me away
You keep me clean
Wash all dirt away
You feel me most often
Yet don't think about me
I may be your pride
If I'm not too skinny or fat
If you're an American
You'd call me your

If I am a man
You'd would call me dumb
If you're English
You'd call me your

Markus

You need me for sitting
Though I'm not a chair.
When you're running
I'm still there.
People say I'm soft
But I'm hard to find
'Cos wherever you look
I'm always behind.

Michael Rosen

1. niloiv
2. fleshkoob
3. maerd
4. nayricodit
5. pacctom kisd
6. barasubaraperbara marbaraketbara trolbaraleybara
7. psinchdashif
8. wobniar
9. reddal
10. daor
11. tunlezah
12. bmuth
13. linsa
14. mub