

This is the key of the kingdom

by Jackie Holderness & Annie Hughes

Level 3 • Elementary

Age: Primary (6–11)

Language aim: To introduce location vocabulary, to practise definite/ indefinite articles, to learn a traditional British rhyme/riddle

Time: 40 minutes

Student grouping: Pairs, whole class

Materials: One copy of the worksheet per student; the audio file (played via onestopenglish or downloaded in advance); (pictures of) a key, preferably large and old; a basket; pictures of bed, room, house, street, king

Language focus: own, city, house, key, kingdom, flowers, basket, bed, room, street; this ... , there is ... , there are ...; whose ... ?

Procedure

Step 1

Show the class the old key. Ask them for words which rhyme with key e.g. *knee, tea, sea, we, he, she*. Discuss in L1 how some poems and songs rhyme while others do not.

Step 2

Explain you are going to show them an old English riddle. Explain *riddles* in L1. A riddle is a poem which requires the reader or listener to guess the subject of the riddle

Step 3

Establish whether the place the students live is a village, town or city. Is the school in a big street or a small street?

Step 4

Show a picture of a king. Explain a country with a king can be called a *kingdom*. Tell the class the key belongs to the king. *Whose key is this? It's the king's.*

Step 5

Read the poem to the class. Then ask them what they think the writer was trying to do (go from large to small).

Step 6

Read the first verse again and ask the class to read it aloud as well.

Step 7

Explain you are going play the audio so the students can hear the reverse (from small to large). They have to listen and then write in the missing words in the second verse. Point out that the audio doesn't tell us what is in the basket.

Step 8

Students label the pictures 1 to 8.

Key

1. kingdom
2. city
3. town
4. street
5. house
6. room
7. bed
8. basket

Follow-up activity

The students can illustrate and label the riddle, drawing and labelling each of the items. Each child chooses something original for the object in the basket.

Transcript

*This is the key of the kingdom:
In the kingdom there's a city,
In the city there's a town,
In the town there's a street,
In the street there's a house,
In the house there's a room,
In the room there's a bed,
On the bed there's a basket,
In the basket there's a ____.*

*There's a ____ in the basket,
There's a basket on the bed,
There's a bed in the ____,
There's a room in the ____,
There's a house in the ____,
There's a street in the ____,
There's a town in the ____,
There's a city in the kingdom:
This is the key of the kingdom!*

This is the key of the kingdom

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This is the key of the kingdom:
In the kingdom there's a city,
In the city there's a town,
In the town there's a street,
In the street there's a house,
In the house there's a room,
In the room there's a bed,
On the bed there's a basket,
In the basket there's a _____.

There's a _____ in the basket,
There's a basket on the bed,
There's a bed in the _____,
There's a room in the _____,
There's a house in the _____,
There's a street in the _____,
There's a town in the _____,
There's a city in the kingdom:
This is the key of the kingdom!



WORKSHEET