

## Constrained Writing: Lipograms

The goal: construct “lipograms” for the following poems. A lipogram is a piece of writing in which some letter of the alphabet never appears. So for example, you will write a new version of “Mary had a Little Lamb” that never uses the letter H. Preserve as much as you can of the spirit of the poem, whatever that means to you – rhythm, rhyme, meaning, tone.

### Mary had a Little Lamb (no H)

Mary had a little lamb  
Whose fleece was white as snow.  
And everywhere that Mary went  
The lamb was sure to go.  
It followed her to school one day,  
Which was against the rule.  
It made the children laugh and play  
To see a lamb at school!

### Tweedledum and Tweedledee (no R)

Tweedledum and Tweedledee  
Agreed to have a battle;  
For Tweedledum said Tweedledee  
Had spoiled his nice new rattle.  
Just then flew down a monstrous crow,  
As black as a tar-barrel;  
Which frightened both the heroes so,  
They quite forgot their quarrel.

### Pi Poem (no A)

Three point one four one five nine  
Makes the lazy student whine,  
But give this ratio a try-  
You'll find that it's as easy as pi!

Three Blind Mice (no I)

Three blind mice, three blind mice,  
See how they run, see how they run.  
They all ran after the farmer's wife,  
She cut off their tails with a carving knife,  
Did you ever see such a sight in your life,  
As three blind mice.

The Grand Old Duke of York (no O)

Oh, the grand old Duke of York,  
He had ten thousand men;  
He marched them up to the top of the hill,  
And he marched them down again.  
And when they were up, they were up,  
And when they were down, they were down,  
And when they were only halfway up,  
They were neither up nor down.

Little Jack Horner (no T)

Little Jack Horner  
Sat in the corner,  
Eating a Christmas pie.  
He put in his thumb  
And pulled out a plum,  
And said "What a good boy am I!"