

Suppose Columbus

Charles Suhor

wrong been had Columbus Suppose
sheet this as flat was earth the Suppose
goodships the And

NINA PINTA MARIA SANTA

East the to get to west Traveling
the is fact the But

NINA PINTA MARIA SANTA

cliff watery a towards Racing
the of nests crow's the in And

NINA PINTA MARIA SANTA

"!ho Land" cry to wanting men Frightened
the on But

PINTA MARIA SANTA

gone was ship sister their that only crying Men
the on And

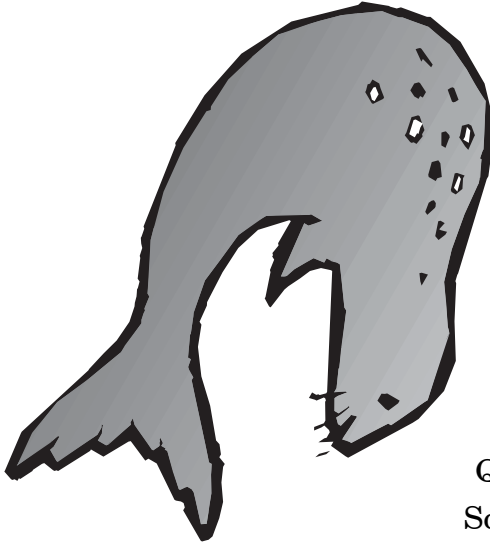
MARIA SANTA

gone were ships sisters his that only crying man crazed A
end the and abyss airy an suddenly And
Columbus Of

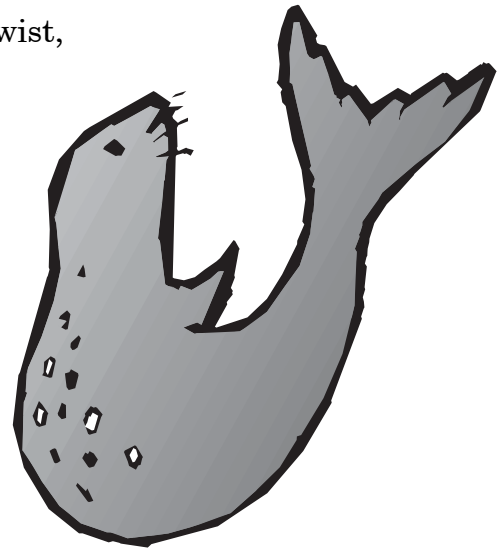
As you read this poem, imagine how a seal moves. Then answer the questions that follow.

Seal

by William Jay Smith



See how he dives
From the rocks with a zoom!
See how he darts
Through his watery room
Past crabs and eels
And green seaweed,
Past fluffs of sandy
Minnow feed!
See how he swims
With a swerve and a twist,
A flip of the flipper,
A flick of the wrist!
Quicksilver-quick,
Softer than spray,
Down he plunges
And sweeps away;
Before you can think,
Before you can utter
Words like "Dill pickle"
Or "Apple butter,"
Back up he swims
Past Sting Ray and Shark,
Out with a zoom,
A whoop, a bark;
Before you can say
Whatever you wish,
He plops at your side
With a mouthful of fish!



"Seal" from *Laughing Time: Collected Nonsense* by William Jay Smith. Copyright © 1990 by William J. Smith. Reprinted by permission of Hill and Wang, a division of Farrar, Straus & Giroux, LLC.

1. What is the **main** purpose of this poem?
 - A to convince people to keep seals as pets
 - B to give information about seals in a humorous way
 - C to raise funds for aquariums that have seals
 - D to warn people not to get too near to seals

2. What is the seal doing in this poem?
 - A chasing other seals
 - B playing with fish
 - C diving into plants
 - D looking for food

3. Why does the seal plunge down?
 - A He is showing off for people.
 - B He has to stay away from the sting rays and sharks.
 - C He has to go deep into the water to find fish to eat.
 - D He is playing with the other animals in the water.

4. Why is this poem written so that the lines curve?
 - A to show that the word “seal” begins with an “s”
 - B to describe how a seal catches fish
 - C to show the movement of a seal
 - D to explain how the author feels about seals

5. Which words **best** describe the seal in this poem?
 - A “See how he swims”
 - B “Quicksilver-quick”
 - C “Words like ‘Dill pickle’”
 - D “He plops at your side”

6. What does the author of the poem **most likely** think about seals?
 - A He thinks seals are serious.
 - B He thinks seals are dangerous.
 - C He thinks seals are careful.
 - D He thinks seals are playful.

End of Set

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*Answers to
Grade 4 Reading Comprehension Sample Items*

Passage Title	Question Number	Correct Answer	Category	Thinking Skill	Objective Number
Seal	1	B	Interpretation	Generating	2.04
Seal	2	D	Cognition	Knowledge	2.01
Seal	3	C	Interpretation	Generating	2.05
Seal	4	C	Critical Stance	Analyzing	3.03
Seal	5	B	Interpretation	Analyzing	2.04
Seal	6	D	Critical Stance	Analyzing	3.01

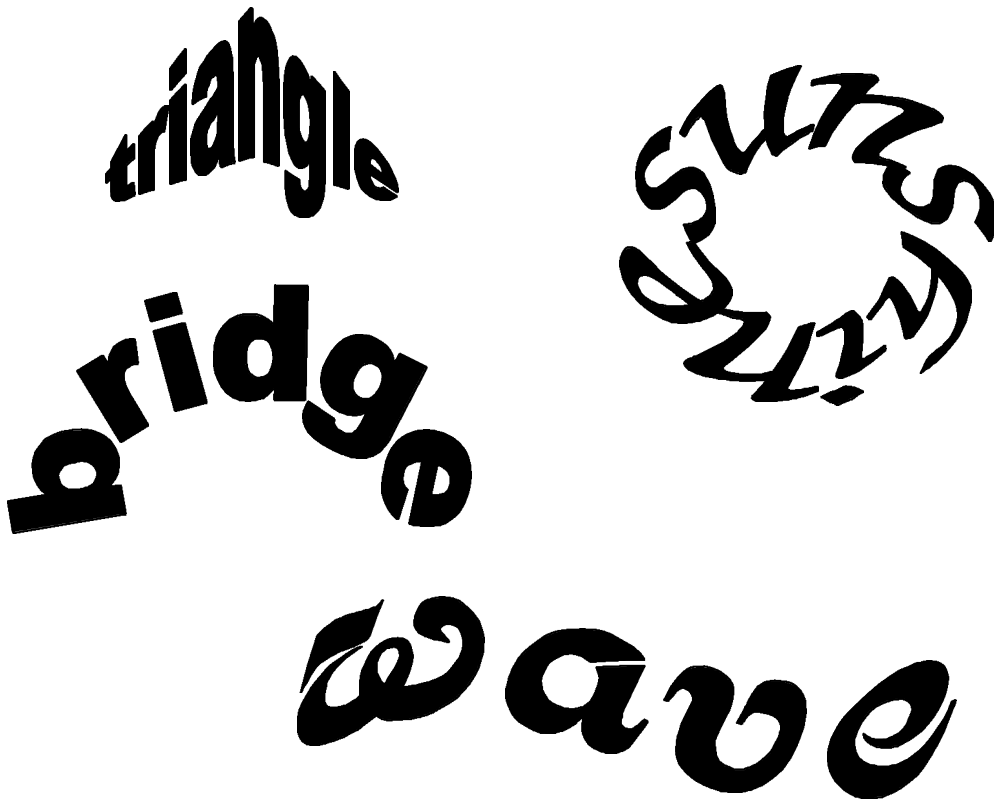
Calligrams

Use the computer to change each of these words into calligrams.

ghost	rainbow	Giant
spooky	thin	Fat
growth	bubble	Shaky
circle	rain	spin
small	stairs	slide

Remember you can change one letter at a time or the whole word.

Here are a few examples, try these as well if you finish.



CALLIGRAMS – words & pictures

Click on Insert WordArt (A). Select a WordArt Style. Type your word. Choose a WordArt shape (ABC)

Word Art
Word Art

triangle
circle

bridge
arch

rainbow
wave

rainbow

sunshine
shadow

big
small
tall

upstairs
downstairs

grow
shrink

thin
thick

shrink

FONTS

Calligraphy

Shadow

MATISSE

Shaky

Can you think of any more?

One-Word Verb Calligram Poems

shiver	
swoop	
jump	
climb	
ran	
fall	
explode	
laugh	
pull	
Push	