Unit 2

**John Ciardi**

***At the Farm***

What would you say if I said I saw

A hen on the pond and a duck in the straw?

– I think I would say you had best go back

And see if that hen can say, “Quack! Quack!”

When that is done, you may try your luck

At asking that duck to say, “Cluck! Cluck!”

**Rachel Field**

***The Performing Seal***

Who is so proud

As not to feel

A secret awe

Before a seal

That keeps such a sleek

And wet repose

While twirling candles

On his nose?

**Langston Hughes**

***Snail***

Little snail,

Dreaming you go.

Weather and rose

Is all you know.

Weather and rose

Is all you see,

Drinking

The dewdrop’s

Mystery.

**Ogden Nash**

***The Porcupine***

Any hound a porcupine nudges

Can’t be blamed for harboring grudges

I know one hound that laughed all winter

At a porcupine that sat on a splinter.

**Ogden Nash**

***The Panther***

The panther is like a leopard,

Except it hasn’t been peppered,

Should you behold a panther crouch,

Prepare to say Ouch.

Better yet, if called by a panther,

Don’t anther.

**Ogden Nash**

***The Eel***

I don’t mind eels

Except as meals.

And the way they feels.

**Ogden Nash**

***The Hippopotamus***

Behold the hippopotamus!

We laugh at how he looks to us,

And yet in moments dank and grim,

I wonder how we look to him.

Peace, peace, thou hippopotamus!

We really look all right to us,

As you no doubt delight the eye

Of other hippopotami.

**Ogden Nash**

***The octopus***

Tell me, O Octopus, I begs

Is those things arms, or is they legs?

I marvel at thee, Octopus;

If I were thou, I'd call me Us.

**Ogden Nash**

***The Kitten***

The trouble with a kitten is

THAT

Eventually it becomes a

CAT.