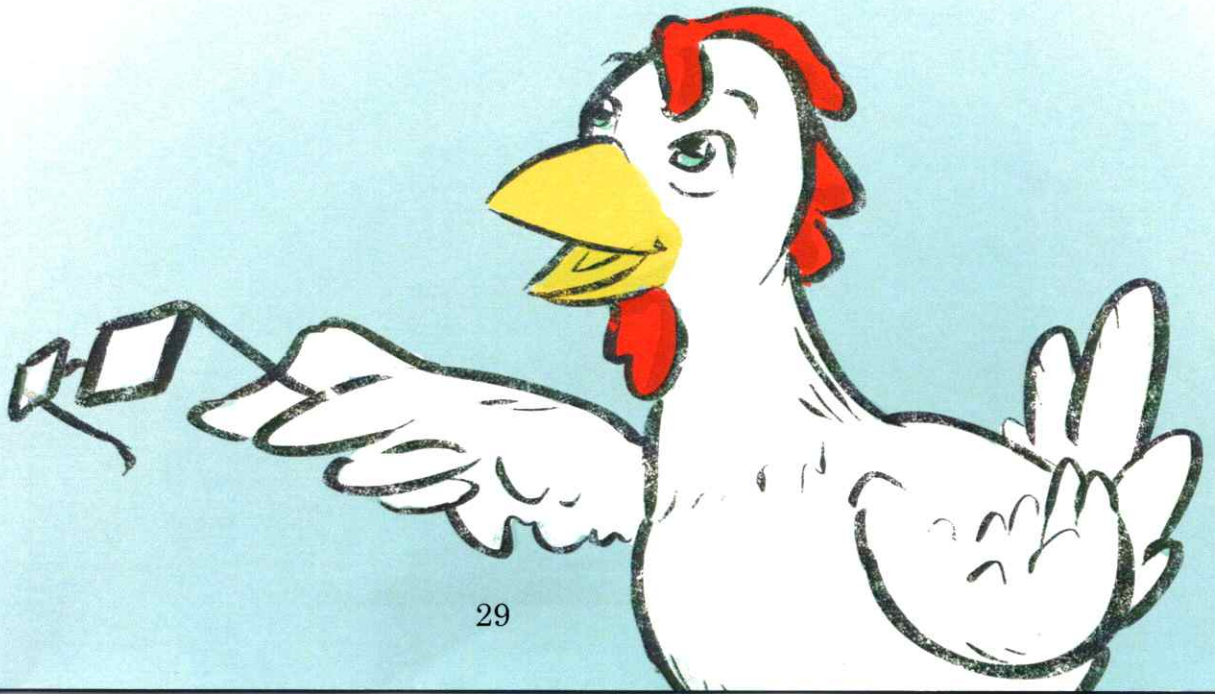
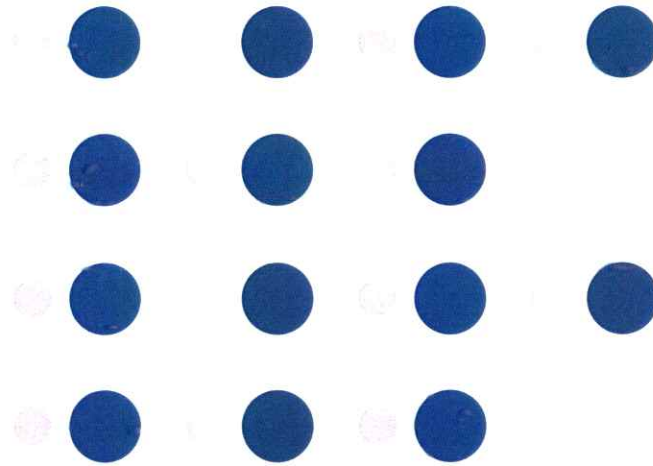


“Look again,” he said. “You’ll see that
lines one and three rhyme THERE with AIR,
and lines two and four rhyme PINE with LINE.
You could show the ballad form this way,
with a 4-3-4-3 pattern:”





The pattern was perfect,
like a salt crystal.

Are all poems ballads? the author wondered.

“No,” Poodle responded.
“I can hear your thoughts.
You know that, right?”

“Not all poems are ballads;
not all are valid; some have maladies.
Some are pallid, like salads,” he added.

“There are other kinds of poems,
but you can use this ballad pattern
to write a longer poem.
You write it in four-line sections.
Each set of four lines would be in ballad form
and would be called a **stanza**.
Let me think....”

And he said, “Here is a ballad
with two ballad stanzas:”



The long fog falls and softly shrouds
the boughs in clouds of white.
The river glides and billows out
to hide the woods all night.

The foaming river plunges down,
a roar of bubble-sound.
A frog pulls back, blinks once, then twice,
and river fog surrounds.

Hmm, the author wrote.
Each set of four lines is a **ballad stanza**?

“Right,” Poodle said. “And notice
the beats of the words.
In a ballad, lines one and three
have four beats, and each beat
has two **syllables**, remember?
We can show it like this:”

1 2 3 4
The **long** / fog **falls** / and **soft** / ly **shrouds**

