

Block City

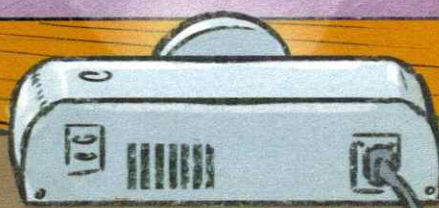
What are you able to build with your blocks?
Castles and palaces, temples and docks.
Rain may keep raining, and others go roam,
But I can be happy and building at home.

Let the sofa be mountains, the carpet be sea,
There I'll establish a city for me:
A kirk and a mill and a palace beside,
And a harbor as well where my vessels may ride.

Great is the palace with pillar and wall,
A sort of a tower on top of it all,
And steps coming down in an orderly way
To where my toy vessels lie safe in the bay.

This one is sailing and that one is moored:
Hark to the song of the sailors on board!
And see on the steps of my palace, the kings
Coming and going with presents and things!

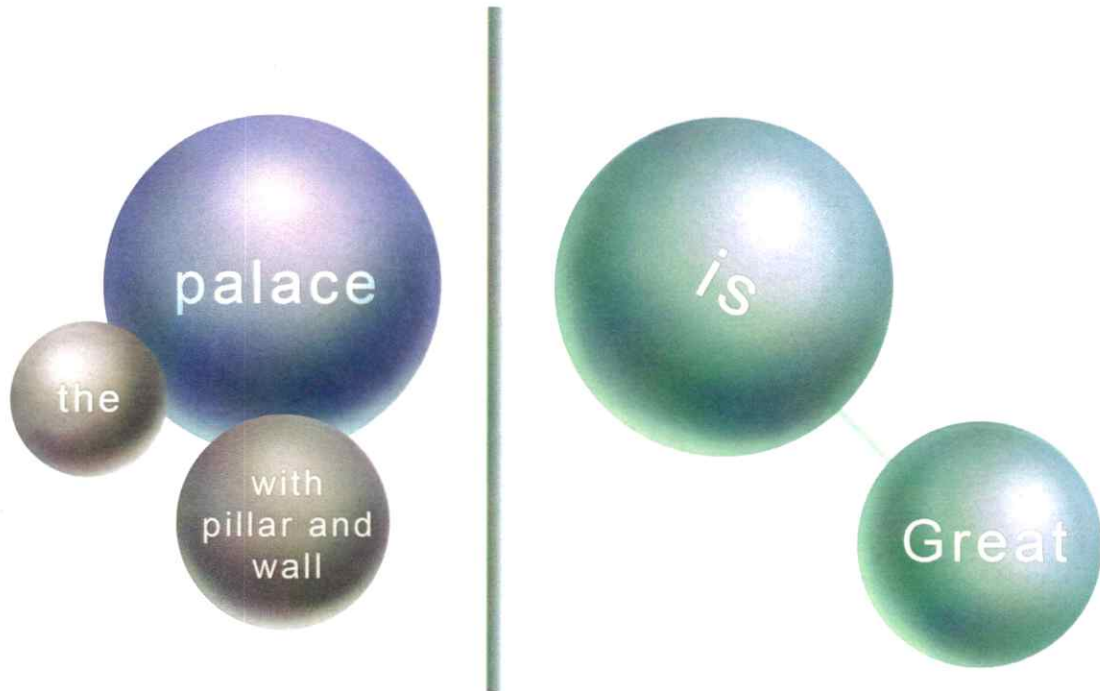
— Robert Louis Stevenson





Poodle loved one inventive sentence,
with the subject and subject complement
reversed from their normal order for effect:

Great is the palace with pillar and wall.

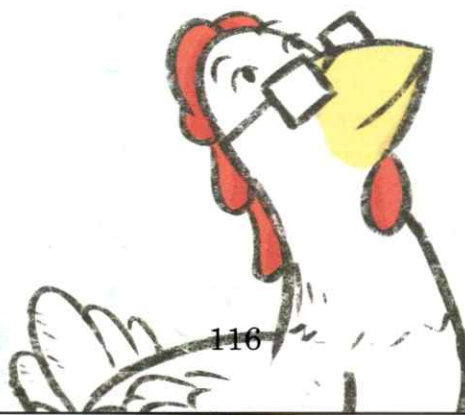


Poodle thought about the difference:

Great is the palace...

The palace is great...

Why did Robert's words sound so good?



It was a lot to take in.
They had learned so much.
Poodle could feel his mind changing
with new ideas and new understandings.

Robert Frost was right:
taking the road less traveled by
makes all the difference.

Emily Dickinson was right:
it's better if the bird does not see you,
if you can just watch the world
without upsetting it.

Robert Louis Stevenson was right:
you can be happy and building at home
and make a city for yourself.

Poodle could feel himself changing.

