

A FUNNY MAN

Natalie Joan:

Natalie Joan is a poet known for writing light, humorous, and imaginative poems mainly for young readers. Her work uses absurd situations, playful language, and vivid imagery to entertain and make poetry enjoyable. Instead of focusing on deep or serious themes, she highlights creativity, fun, and the joy of language. Her poems are often included in school textbooks because they are easy to understand, engaging, and effective for teaching literary devices.

Summary:

A speaker encounters a strange man walking down the street wearing a shoe on his head and hats on his feet. The man behaves politely but does absurd things,

like offering a currant bun as if it were a rose. His actions confuse the speaker, who reacts with surprise and disbelief. The man continues his odd behavior by singing strangely and sitting on the ground. When questioned about his appearance, he does not respond logically and instead hops away on his head. The poem ends on a humorous and absurd note.

Type of Poem:

Nonsense Poetry / Humorous Verse and it contains elements of fantasy and absurdity

Rhyme Scheme:

The poem follows a consistent ABCB rhyme scheme throughout, where:

Only the 2nd and 4th lines rhyme

The 1st and 3rd lines usually do not rhyme

Figures of Speech:

1. Imagery

→ Language that creates vivid mental pictures.

 “He wore a shoe upon his head / And hats upon his feet.”

2. Alliteration

→ Repetition of the same consonant sound at the beginning of nearby words.

 “funny feeling”

3. Hyperbole

→ Deliberate exaggeration for emphasis.

 “You never heard in all your life”

4. Irony

→ A contrast between expectation and reality.



The man calls a currant bun a “rose” and asks the speaker to smell it.

Important Vocabulary:

1. currant bun– A sweet bread with dried grapes
2. staggered– moved unsteadily due to shock
3. manners– polite behavior
4. sounding sight something seen but described as sound
5. funny feeling sound– unusual or strange sound
6. hopped– jumped lightly