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ABSTRACT Humorous imitations of famous poems and quotations, altered with metric language, are presented in this document published by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools Metric Education Project. In addition, a section entitled "A Metrikey" relates metric units to familiar items such as width of doorknobs, areas of typewriter keys, etc. (MF)

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METRICS THE MEASURE OF YOUR FUTURE

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Violet Daniel, Director

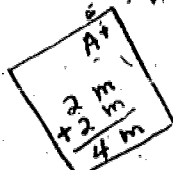
THE METER WAS NEVER LIKE THIS

December 1977

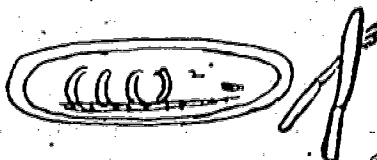
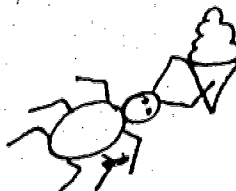
Mother Goose
Is on the loose,
Her rhymes she has rewritten:
She wants to ride
The metric tide,
For with it she is smitten!



There was an old woman who lived in a shoe -
Her children had homework; she knew what to do:
She helped them learn meters and liters and such
So measurement never did bother them much.



Little Miss Muffet
Sat on a tuffet;
Her liter of milk wouldn't pour.
She said to the spider
Who sat down beside her,
"Have you ever had yogurt before?"



To market, to market, to buy a fat pig;
It weighed forty kilograms, so I danced a jig.
Home again, home again, bar-be-cue hot -
Then company came - one gram's all I got!

Mary, Mary, quite contrary,
How does your garden grow?
My roses all
Are a meter tall
But my weeds are two meters, I know!



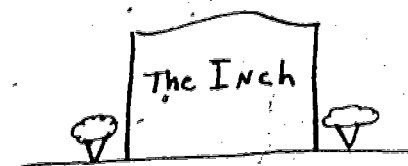
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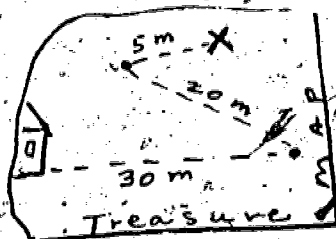
Ladybug, ladybug, fly away home;
Go tell your children that metric has come!



Sing a song of sixpence,
Of yards and feet and inches,
And other old-time units
Like pints and pounds and pinches:
Put all those antique notions
To rest once and forever;
Your future will be metric,
So learn it and be clever.



Old Mother Hubbard
Went to the cupboard,
Her dog didn't bother to follow;
"Without metric measure
She won't find my treasure -
My bone's buried down in the hollow!"



Polly, put the kettle on
And make us all some tea;
It tastes sweeter
By the liter
So save a lot for me!



Pat-a-cake, pat-a-cake, baker's man,
Bake me a kilogram cake if you can;
Ice it with chocolate and mark it SI
To help me learn metrics - I really will try.



Jack and Jill
Went up the hill
With a water pail between them;
Hauled ten full liters
A thousand meters -
Since then no one has seen them.

Rub-a-dub-dub,
Three men and a tub -
Doing laundry is not copacetic;
But they never sob,
They did find a job,
Which was hard, for they didn't know metric.



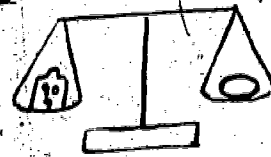
Jack be nimble, Jack be quick,
Forget about that candlestick.
Spend your spare time learning metrics:
It's a must in world athletics.
When you're looking at a star,
A kilometer isn't far;
But when you have a race to run,
A hundred meters is hard-won!

Pease porridge in a metric pot -
Just how much does it hold?
A cubic decimeter when it's hot,
One liter when it's cold!



Lavender's blue, silly Milli, lavender's green -
When meter is King, silly Milli, you may be Queen.

Hickety, pickety, my pretty hen,
Her big eggs often feed hungry men;
Each of them weighs ninety grams on the scale -
A dozen would make scrambled eggs for a whale.



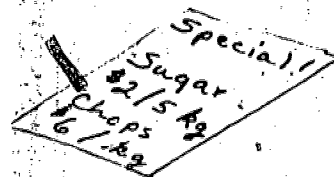
Slow and steady wins the race -
Just maintain your meter pace:
When you have a thousand done,
One kilometer you have run.

Fe fi fo fum -
We used to measure like Englishmen:
Be they alive or be they dead,
We use the meter now instead.



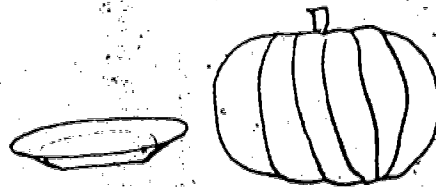
Where are you going, my pretty maid?
To study metrics, sir, she said,
I'm liberated, and I mean to be
An engineer for your company!

There was old lady who lived down the way -
She wouldn't learn metrics for even a day;
So now she has problems whenever she shops -
She can't order sugar, or cabbage, or chops!



There is a soda shop in town,
And there my true love sits him down;
He's drinking milkshake by the kiloliter -
He's fat, but maybe he is sweeter!

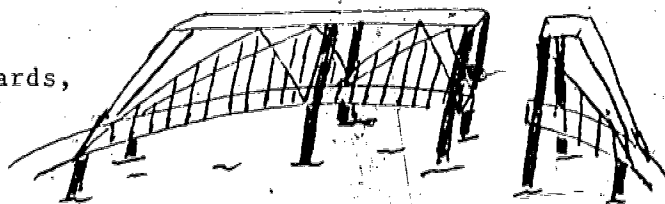
Peter, Peter, pumpkin eater,
Learned to measure with the meter,
Then he built a house so neat
His wife won't leave it for a treat.
Now Peter wishes she would learn
The metric measures in her turn
So she could make some pumpkin pie;
He'd teach her but she's scared to try.



Think what meters can do for the ten o'clock scholar -
He won't need to procrastinate
Since he never again has to change yards to inches;
He will have no excuse to be late!



London Bridge is falling down
And traffic is quite hectic:
The builder just knew feet and yards,
But the architect used metric!



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Violet Daniel, Director

MetricMisQuotes

December 1977

Centimeters

Le Sage -

It may be said that his wit shines at the expense of his memory. Not so - Bartlett does not forget. But 'tis as well he never saw these MetricMisQuotes.

RJR Winstons -

It's what's up front that counts - kilo, centi, milli . . .

Shakespeare -

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? Thy temperature hath climbed to forty degrees Celsius.

Paul Revere -

The British are coming
The Chinese are coming
The Arabs are coming
And they're all using metrics.

R. Valentino -

I'm the Sheik of Araby,
In my dreams you came to me,
So tonight, when you're asleep,
Softly to your tent I'll creep
Bringing perfume by the liter,
A golden chain at least one meter,
And a kilogram of jelly.
Merry Christmas, Metric Milli!

Jackie Gleason -

Yards, feet, inches - one of these days - Pow!
But the metric system - how sweet it is!

Mac West -

Why don't you come up and see me sometime - I'll show you my really neat new metric measuring cups, and tape measure, and color-coded meter stick, and . . .

H. Truman -

If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen - don't just keep blaming it on Celsius.

Sinatra -

I did it my way - but the metric system sure would have been easier.

Izaak Walton -

No man can lose what he never had - but if he never had the metric system, he was a loser.

Cervantes -

Youngsters read it, grown men understand it, and old people applaud it, once they have learned SI.

Chaucer -

And gladly would he learn, and gladly teach
The metric system to his pupils each.

Lothair I -

The times change, and we change with them - that is why we must learn metrics.

Epictetus -

Practice yourself, for heaven's sake, in little things, and then proceed to greater. First the centimeter, then the meter!

Seneca -

The best ideas are common property - and the metric system is one of the best ideas of this age.

Archimedes -

Eureka! I have found it! The metric system!

Lacydes -

If I should not be learning metrics now, when should I be?
It's not my fault that I was born too soon.

Confucius say -

He who liveth by the meter,
Will find his life a little sweeter.

Jimmy Durante -

Dese are de conditions dat prevail: de meters is here, and de liters and de kilograms and Celsius, and dat ain't bad.

Aristotle -

One swallow does not make a summer, but a liter of lemonade helps.

Satchel Paige -

Don't look back - something may be gaining on you - oops, it's the metric system!

Anne Morrow Lindberg -

The wave of the future is coming and there is no fighting it. Learn those metric prefixes; ride that wave!

Clark Gable -

Frankly, my dear, I just don't give a dram
Since I have gone metric, I choose kilogram
And meter and liter to answer my needs
Which are juleps, magnolias, and more cotton seeds.

J. F. Kennedy -

Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country. First, learn to use metric measure. With it, our nation will be strong enough to compete with Taiwan, and Hong Kong, and maybe even Japan!

Greta Garbo -

I want to be alone - I really must learn the metric prefixes so you can order that new mink coat for me tomorrow. Lets see, if I'm 90-60-90 in centimeters and 65 in kilograms, does that mean I need a size six?

The Black-eyed Blonde -

I'd rather fight than switch - now that I have a meter, I'll never give an inch.

Tonto to the Lone Ranger -

Kemo sabe, I checked this shipment of silver bullets with my metric scale and each one is seventeen milligrams lighter than your old ones. Does that mean you can't go on?

Patrick Henry -

Give me liberty or give me death -
Free men have the right to choose.
I care not what units the rest of you take,
Pur metric is what I shall use.

Lovelace -

Stone walls do not a prison make,
Nor iron bars a cage,
The olden ways you must forsake -
Come, join the metric age.

Cowley -

What shall I do to be forever known
And make the age to come my own?
Why, learn your metric measures well
Then in the future you can dwell.

Tarzan -

Me Tarzan. You Jane. This meter stick - me not stupid!

General McArthur -

Old soldiers never die, they just measure metric; thus they escape
the worst battle of all, operations with common fractions.

Milton -

To know
That which before us lies in daily life
Is the prime wisdom.
All now we see is metric
So learn it well.

Descartes -

It is not enough to have a good mind.
The main thing is to use it well and learn to measure metric.

Julius Caesar -

I came, I saw, I conquered - everything but those crazy miles, quarts,
and pounds. Those barbarians didn't even know the metric system.
But the time will come . . .

Sir Walter Raleigh -

Shall I like a hermit dwell
On a rock, or in a cell?
Or shall I join with modern man
And switch to metric when I can?

Ben Jonson -

Drink to me only with thine eyes.
Not from that metric cup;
Now I shall save money
If you don't drink, honey,
For the cost of a liter is up!

Thomas Jefferson -

I hold it, that a little rebellion, now and then, is a good thing;
and I'm rebelling against feet, yards and inches - they shall never
enter my house! It shall be metric!

THE MODERN METRIC SYSTEM

A METRIKEY



Learn these words:

meter m length
liter L liquids
gram g weight
Celsius C temperature

Learn these prefixes:

mega M million
*kilo k thousand
hecto h hundred
deka da ten
deci d tenth
*centi c hundredth
*milli m thousandth
micro μ millionth

*frequent daily use

NOTICE that some symbols are capital letters and some are not:
for example, M \rightarrow mega, a million; but m \rightarrow milli, a thousandth.

millimeter mm \rightarrow 1 mm
(thickness of a dime)

centimeter cm \rightarrow
(width of a fingernail)

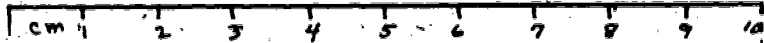
decimeter dm \rightarrow
(width of a hand)

meter m
(height of a doorknob)

dekameter dam
(width of a tennis court)

hectometer hm
(length of a football field
plus one end zone)

kilometer km
(four or five blocks)



Metric

10 mm = 1 cm
10 cm = 1 dm
10 dm = 1 m
10 m = 1 dam
10 dam = 1 hm
10 hm = 1 km

1000 mm = 1 m
100 cm = 1 m
1000 m = 1 km

1 cm = 0.4 in.
1 m = 1.1 yd.
1 km = 0.6 mi.



square millimeter mm² \rightarrow
(head of a straight pin)

square centimeter cm² \rightarrow
(a typewriter key)

square decimeter dm² \rightarrow
(bottom of a 2 L milk carton)

square meter m²
(top of a card table)

square dekameter dm²
(often called an are a)

square hectometer hm²
(called a hectare ha)

square kilometer km²
(for very large areas)

Metric

100 mm² = 1 cm²
100 cm² = 1 dm²
100 dm² = 1 m²
100 m² = 1 a
100 a = 1 ha
100 ha = 1 km²

1 cm² = 0.16 sq. in.
1 m² = 1.2 sq. yd.
1 ha = 2.5 acres
1 km² = 0.4 sq. mi.

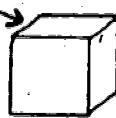
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cubic millimeter mm^3 

(a grain of coarse sand)

cubic centimeter cm^3 

(a cup this size will hold
one milliliter of water,
weighing one gram)

cubic decimeter dm^3

(a cup this size will hold
one liter of water, weigh-
ing one kilogram)

cubic meter m^3

(a container this size will
hold one kiloliter of water,
weighing one metric ton)

Metric

1000 $\text{mm}^3 = 1 \text{ cm}^3$
1000 $\text{cm}^3 = 1 \text{ dm}^3$
1000 $\text{dm}^3 = 1 \text{ m}^3$

Volume

1 $\text{cm}^3 \doteq 0.06 \text{ cu. in.}$

1 $\text{dm}^3 \doteq 0.04 \text{ cu. ft.}$

1 $\text{m}^3 \doteq 1.3 \text{ cu. yd.}$

milliliter mL 

(5 mL fill a teaspoon)

liter L

(a wide-mouthed quart
jar, full to the top)

kiloliter kL

(a queensize water-bed full:
it weighs a metric ton)

Metric

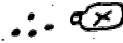
1000 $\text{mL} = 1 \text{ L}$
1000 $\text{L} = 1 \text{ kL}$

Liquids

1 $\text{mL} \doteq 0.03 \text{ fl. oz.}$

1 $\text{L} \doteq 1.06 \text{ qt.}$

1 $\text{kL} \doteq 264 \text{ gal.}$

milligram mg 

(one tablet may contain
400 mg of aspirin)

gram g

(a plump raisin may weigh
one gram)

kilogram kg

(weight of a liter of tea)

metric ton t

(almost an old "long" ton)

Metric

1000 $\text{mg} = 1 \text{ g}$
1000 $\text{g} = 1 \text{ kg}$
1000 $\text{kg} = 1 \text{ t}$

*Mass
or
Weight*

1 $\text{g} \doteq 0.04 \text{ oz.}$

1 $\text{kg} \doteq 2.2 \text{ lb.}$

1 $\text{t} \doteq 2205 \text{ lb.}$

degrees Celsius $^{\circ}\text{C}$

(new name for degrees Centigrade)

Temperature

