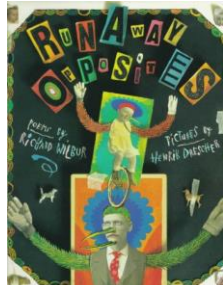


# Opposites Poetry

"I discovered opposites when I came across Richard Wilbur's delightful little book. [the book is in harrellland, so take a look] An opposite is a poem that tells what the opposite of something is. This type of poem is made up of one or two couplets—a fact that appeals to many student writers ... " *Paul Janeczko, 1984* Two samples by Wilbur follow:

What is the opposite of two?  
A lonely me, a lonely you.

What is the opposite of riot?  
It's a lot of people keeping quiet.



What is the opposite  
of peace and quiet?  
Living by neighbors  
who shriek and riot  
--Derek, sorta did an  
opposite of Wilbur's

Now Derek is warmed up on his own-  
What is the opposite of  
homeowner bliss?  
Asking, "Did I pay  
\$500, 000 for this?"

Each opposite's first line will be either a question or a statement of an opposite. The second line (and any subsequent line) is the answer to the question or statement. Opposites of two or four lines work fine, but sustaining the idea of an opposite for six or more lines (like Katie did) is a cool challenge for some of you. Here are some students' opposites:

What's the opposite of being fat?  
I don't think you need to be told that  
It's being able to fit into your jeans  
Without the use of mechanical means.

What is the opposite of running fast?  
Not have enough energy to last  
What is the opposite of having fun?  
Giving up and saying you're done.  
What is the opposite of hate?  
It's easy, two people on a date.  
*Danny Duncanson*

What is the opposite of having fun?  
Sitting around just looking at everyone  
Doing nothing, being bored  
Or watching the other team as they scored  
*Marissa Wheeler*

What is the opposite of sweet and mild?  
It's being bad and very wild  
What is the opposite of friendly and nice?  
The big bad wolf eating three blind mice.  
*Sophia Lee*

What is the opposite of being nice?  
Sitting there acting cold as ice.  
What is the opposite of near?  
A lot of people that aren't even here.  
*Ary Lamme*

What is the opposite of singing?  
It's the sound of a telephone ringing  
What is the opposite of thinking?  
Expressing thought with pretentious winking  
*Christina Ariet*

Blubbery or Bony  
*Katie Marsh*

What is the opposite of small?  
Being extremely fat and tall.  
What is the opposite of gaunt?  
Eating everything you want.  
What is the opposite of petite?  
Having far too much to eat.  
What is the opposite of wee?  
Being as broad and tall as a tree.  
What is the opposite of pint-size?  
Having gargantuan thunder thighs  
What is the opposite of thin?  
Walking around with a double chin

What is the opposite of freezing water?  
A ton of sand that is much hotter.  
What is the opposite of jumping around?  
Of course silly, it's lying down.  
*Joel Gierhart*

What is the opposite of smart?  
Unable to get out of a room in the dark  
What is the opposite of lazy  
Being restless, hardworking, and crazy  
What I the opposite of good?  
Not ever doing what you should.  
*Guillermo Valle*