

# A Big Surprise

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- 1 For my presents, I said I'd like  
Computer games,  
A mountain bike,  
An electric train  
Or a model plane  
But most of all  
I'd like a bike.
- 8 I opened my presents  
And what did I find there?  
A hand-knitted hat  
And a squeaky bear,  
More underpants from my aunts  
And socks (grey, one pair).
- 14 I said "thank you" nicely,  
I tried to smile  
But what was I thinking  
All the while?  
I was thinking  
I wanted computer games,  
A mountain bike,  
An electric train  
Or a model plane  
But most of all  
I'd have liked  
A bike.

26 “There’s just one last thing  
to unwrap,” they said.  
“It’s a big surprise  
we’ve kept it in the shed.  
It’s special, it comes with love  
From the lot of us ...”

32 Now I’m the only kid in school  
With my own hippopotamus.

### Challenge 3

1 Which present did the narrator want most of all?

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2 What does the word “*more*” tell us in verse 2? Tick **one**.

He wanted underpants.

His aunts have given him underpants before.

He had already opened underpants in a different present.

He did not like his aunt.

3 “*And socks (grey, one pair)*” (verse 2). Why didn’t the poet write “*And one pair of grey socks*”?

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4 Write **two** pairs of rhyming words from the first two verses.

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5 Which word in verse 3 tells you the narrator didn’t feel happy?

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6 Why did the narrator say “*thank you*” even if he didn’t like the present?

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7 “*It’s a big surprise/we’ve kept it in the shed*” (verse 4).

a) What did the narrator think when he heard that?

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b) Explain your answer.

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8 How do you think the narrator will feel when he sees the present?

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9 The poem has five verses. Draw lines to match the main idea to each of the five verses.

Verse 1            The child receives his big surprise.

Verse 2            The child is disappointed.

Verse 3            The child opens his presents.

Verse 4            The child is told there is one last big present.

Verse 5            The child says what he would like for his birthday.

### Challenge 3

Write the question number and then answer the questions:

**Answers:**