

Columbus Took A Shortcut!



Poetry and Songs

Cherry Carl

Columbus Took A Shortcut!

Cherry Carl

It was over five hundred years ago
That Columbus cried, "Do you want to go?
I'm going to a place that's far away
And we'll be gone for many a day!
There's gold to be had in this great land
And spices and silks that feel quite grand!"

Columbus set out upon his trip,
With lots of men and three tiny ships.
But Columbus took a different route,
The one that he'd been thinking about.
"The world is round. It is not flat!
We're going this way and that is that!"

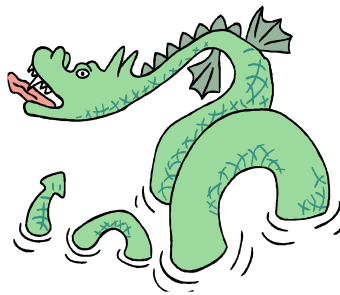


Have No Fear!

Cherry Carl

People wondered if he was sane,
When Columbus said, "Let me explain.
The world is round and I'll prove it to you.
I'll travel west with my ships and crew!"

The life of his sailors wasn't easy.
The rolling seas made so many queasy.
They had real fears of what lay ahead,
As they lay awake with dreams in their heads.
Instead of getting a good night's sleep,
They thought about the monsters in the deep.
Were there devilish dragons below their ship,
And whirling waters that could easily flip
Their tiny ship into the seas.
And so they prayed, "Oh, save us, please!"



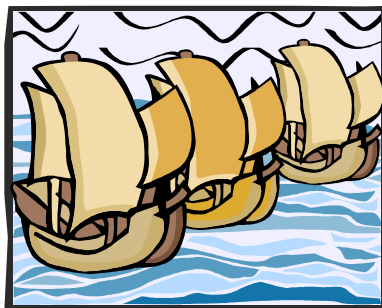
Things Could Always Be Worse!

Cherry Carl

Columbus always prepared for the worst:
Disease and endless hunger and thirst.
He served his men one hot meal a day
Meat that was pickled to stop decay,
Hard tack biscuits and peas and cheese,
And whatever fish they could get from the seas.

What did they eat for the rest of the day?
How could they work and slave away
With one meal cooked over an open fire
In a sandbox that cooks would never admire!

They went to sea without any beds,
And slept anywhere they could lay their heads.
They pumped the bilge and swabbed the deck,
And worked the sails so they didn't wreck.
They'd fume and fight and often curse,
But, hey, things could always be worse!



A Rose That Has No Smell

Cherry Carl

Have you heard of a rose that has no smell?

I'll tell you about it, so listen well!

This rose is a special design that shows
Every pirate and sailor which way that he goes.

"Am I going the way to the treasure chest?"

Is it north or south or east or west!

Without a compass rose on a map,
My sailors might easily fall for a trap!"



The View from Above

Cherry Carl

A map is a picture that holds the key
To finding our way from sea to sea,
With symbols and signs, colors and lines,
And all of the mapmaker's special designs.



A Sense of Place

Cherry Carl

Maps outline a special space

And always give us a sense of place.

Where are we going and where have we been?

How will we get there and when, when, when?

How many miles will we have to drive?

How will we know when we finally arrive?!

We follow the key, the key on the map,

That's always there on somebody's lap!

Will we pass through towns that are very small?

Will we get to see any places at all?

Look at the map and you can see

Just where we are and where we'll be!

A Key with No Lock

Cherry Carl

Every map has a special key
So you know what is land and what is the sea.

Oceans and rivers and lakes are blue,
But I know that and so do you!

Trees and grass are usually green
On every map that I've ever seen!
Roads and freeways are easy signs . . .
They're usually marked with big black lines.

Every map has a special key,
So, when you look, you'll always see
Symbols and signs that help you read
The easiest maps with special speed!