

And in the bedroom, by the bed,
More books were waiting to be read!
Such wondrous, fine, fantastic tales
Of dragons, gypsies, queens, and whales
And treasure isles, and distant shores
Where smugglers rowed with muffled oars,
And pirates wearing purple pants,
And sailing ships and elephants,
And cannibals crouching 'round the pot,
Stirring away at something hot.
(It smells so good, what can it be?
Good gracious, it's Penelope.)

The younger ones had Beatrix Potter
With Mr. Tod, the dirty rotter,
And Squirrel Nutkin, Pigling Bland,
And Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle and-
Just How The Camel Got His Hump,
And How the Monkey Lost His Rump,
And Mr. Toad, and bless my soul,
There's Mr. Rat and Mr. Mole-
Oh, books, what books they used to know
Those children living long ago!

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d-50-61 In the first two lines of the stanza, the poet talks about the great popularity of books due to which their popularity presence was visible literally everywhere. This was because in the pre-television generation children were fond of reading books. The number of books and the variation of content was so large that the process seemed to be almost everlasting, because there were always some books that "were waiting to be read."

As the poet says, the tales read by children in the past were fantasies with a galaxy of interesting characters. Those tales were full of adventures and strange situations that contributed to sharpen the imagination and creativity of their young readers.

As the poet says, the world depicted in the fantasies was based on pure imagination. It had a range of unusual characters and situations to amuse and entertain young readers. The children didn't get vivid visual reference but the illustrations on the pages of the books. ~~So~~ But, in the post-television era, the children are catered with concrete visual references that kills their imaginations. They don't provide them with further scope to think about the characters or situations that are presented.

At the end of the stanza, the poet uses Parenthesis — as we know, a word, phrase or a line in brackets either inserted or placed in a passage or stanza or at the end of it.

☑

PENELOPE

⊛

Note :- In Greek mythology, a daughter of Icarius of Sparta and wife of hero Odysseus. Homer's *Odyssey* tells the story of how, during the absence

of Penelope's husband after the Trojan War, many chieftains of Ithaca and nearby islands became her suitors. The Cannibals are referring symbolically to the chieftains who are eyeing Penelope with hungry eyes.

62-71

This stanza talks about the period of time when television had not been invented or didn't become a household essential, and reading books was a favourite pastime for children.

In this part of the poem, the poet lists some of the most popular fictional characters that children in the pre-television era used to enjoy by reading and know about through different books available to them.

Beatrix Potter :-

Beatrix Potter was English writer, illustrator, natural scientist, and conservationist best known for her children's books featuring animals.

* Mr. Fox, belonged to the book The Tale of Mr. Fox written by Beatrix Potter and published in 1912.

* 'Squirrel Nutkin' (Published in 1903) - Story of a Red Squirrel named 'Nutkin' - written and illustrated by Beatrix Potter.

* 'Pigling Bland' - Adventure of a pig named Pigling Bland - Published in 1913 - written by Beatrix Potter.

* 'Mrs. Tiggy Winkle' - written and illustrated by Beatrix Potter - published in 1905.

* 'The Camel Got His Hump' - written by Rudyard Kipling - Published in 1898.

* 'The Monkey Lost His Rump' - written by Rudyard Kipling.

* Mr. Rat and Mr. Mole

- These two characters belong to 'The Wind in the Willows' by Kenneth Grahame, first published in 1908.