**What Do We Plant?**

*By Henry Abbey*

What do we plant when we plant the tree?

We plant the ship, which will cross the sea.

We plant the mast to carry the sails;

We plant the planks to withstand the gales‑

The keel, the keelson, the beam, the knee;

We plant the ship when we plant the tree.

What do we plant when we plant the tree?

We plant the houses for you and me.

We plant the rafters, the shingles, the floors,

We plant the studding, the lath, the doors,

The beams and siding, all parts that be;

We plant the house when we plant a tree.

What do we plant when we plant the tree?

A thousand things that we daily see;

We plant the spire that out‑towers the crag,

We plant the staff for our country’s flag,

We plant the shade, from the hot sun free;

We plant all these when we plant the tree.

**Adventures of Isabel**

*By Ogden Nash*

Isabel met an enormous bear,

Isabel, Isabel didn’t care.

The bear was hungry,

The bear was ravenous,

The bear’s big mouth

 was cruel and cavernous.

The bear said, “Isabel, glad to meet you,

How do, Isabel, now I’ll eat you!”

Isabel, Isabel didn’t worry;

Isabel didn’t scream or scurry,

She washed her hands and

she straightened her hair up

Then Isabel quietly ate the bear up.

Once in a night as black as pitch

Isabel met a wicked old witch.

The witch's face was cross and wrinkled,

The witch's gums with teeth were sprinkled.

“Ho, ho, Isabel!” the old witch crowed,

I'll turn you into an ugly toad!

Isabel, Isabel, didn't worry,

Isabel didn't scream or scurry,

She showed no rage

and she showed no rancor,

But she turned the witch

into milk and drank her.

**What is Red?**

*By Mary O’Neill*

Red is a sunset

Blazy and bright.

Red is feeling brave

With all your might.

Red is a sunburn

Spot on your nose,

Sometimes red

Is a red, red rose.

Red squiggles out

When you cut your hand.

Red is a brick and

A rubber band.

Red is hotness

You get inside

When you’re embarrassed

And want to hide.

Fire-cracker, fire-engine

Fire-flicker red –

And when you’re angry
Red runs through your head.

Red is an Indian,

A Valentine heart,

The trimming on

A circus cart.

Red is a lipstick,

Red is a shout,

Red is a signal

That says: “Watch out!”

Red is a great big

Rubber ball.

Red is the giant-est

Color of all.

Red is a show-off

No doubt about it –

But can you imagine

Living without it?

**The Perfect Pets**

*By Dennis Lee*

WAAAal-

I had a dog,

And his name was Doogie,

And I don't know why

But he liked to boogie;

He boogied all night

He boogied all day

He boogied in a rude

Rambunctious way.

SOOOoo-

I got a cat,

And her name was Bing,

and I don't know why

But she liked to sing;

She sang up high

She sang down deep

She sang like the dickens

When I tried to sleep.

SOOOoo-

I got a fox,

And her name was Knox,

And I don't know why

But she liked to box;

She boxed me out

She boxed me in

She boxed me smack!

On my chinny-chin-chin.

SOOOoo-

I got a grizzly,

And his name was Gus,

And I don't know why

But he liked to fuss,

He fussed in the sun

He fussed in the rain

He fussed till he drove me

Half insane!

NOWWWWww-

I don't know,

But I've been told

That some people's pets

Are good as gold.

But there's Doogie and there's Bing,

And there's Knox and Gus,

And they boogie and they sing

And they box and fuss;

So I'm giving them away

And I'm giving them for free-

If you want a perfect pet,

Just call on me.