

# How to Successfully Persuade Your Parents to Give You More Pocket Money

Andrea Shavick

This poem is all about a situation familiar to many children: trying to convince their parents to give them something that they want using all the tricks at their disposal. Children can have a lot of fun with expression and simple gesture with this list poem, which also introduces lots of speech verbs and challenging vocabulary, and is a useful starter for talking about persuasion, but also for considering the reasons why it is not always possible to have your own way.

Fun to have

Dictionaries and thesauruses.  
Large sheets of paper to make posters. Words and phrases from the poem (up to the word 'Screech') cut-up and mounted on large sheets of card (ensure numbers are written on the backs of the card so that the words are kept in the same order as they appear in the poem).  
Recording equipment.

## 1 Warm up

Ask the children to:

- Roll their shoulders forward three times and backwards three times as if limbering up for a big performance.
- Practise saying a phrase such as 'I want more pocket money' in different tones – angrily, worried, pleading or harassing.
- Select a few of the speech verbs from the poem (e.g. 'whinge', 'squeal', 'scream') and see if they can make a whinging sound, a squeal, a scream, etc.
- Breathe very deeply in and then control the exhalation for as long and slow as possible. Repeat a few times.

## 2 Tune in

- Ask the children to think about a time when they really wanted something, e.g. a new computer game. Ask them: What did you do? Who did you ask? Did you try to persuade your parents/carers to give in? How did you do that?
- Ask volunteers to model how they might approach a request and what words and tone they might adopt.
- Explain that this poem is about the advice you would give to someone asking for more pocket money. Ask them about pocket money and let them share their experiences.
  - What advice would they give a friend in this situation?
- Tell them that the poem has a very long title: *How to Successfully Persuade Your Parents to Give You More Pocket Money*.
- The poem starts with some polite ways of asking, but when that does not work, the suggestions get more extreme. Ask them how they think the poem will end.

## 3 Model and explore

### Recording 1

A straight reading of the poem.



- Read the poem or listen to recording 1.
- Ask the children if their predictions about the ending were right.
- Give the children one, or more, cut-up words from the poem. Working in pairs, ask the children to discuss the words they do not know and see if they can guess the meaning or use a dictionary to find the definition.
- **Support:** Ask the children if they can read their word and whether they know the meaning of the word. Look for the word in a dictionary or online.
- **Challenge:** Ask the children to write down their word and the definition to start to make a word and definition list.

**Recording 2**

A dramatic reading of the poem, with the line from 'Screech' to 'EXPLODE' increasing in volume.



- Discuss words and consider ways to make these visible for children to use in their speaking and writing whenever possible, e.g. class posters of useful speech verbs and/or organising them in some way to encourage them to use them, such as noting and classifying them into synonyms and antonyms.
- Ask the children to then share their word and its meaning with the rest of the class. Where possible, encourage them to say the word in a way that is most appropriate to its meaning, e.g. glumly and plaintively, smarmily, pestering, etc.
- Play recording 2.
- Discuss the differences between recording 1 and recording 2.
- Introduce the word 'crescendo' (a gradual increase in volume).
- Ideally with the text of the poem in front of them, ask the children to think why there might be a gap between 'EXPLODE' and the next line. Introduce the idea of a suspense pause and model how this works: after 'EXPLODE', count three beats, read the line 'And if all that doesn't work', then add a pause at the end of this line, read the next two lines and then also leave a pause after the line 'That should do it with ease'.

**4 Rehearse***tips*

You could add simple gestures and/or facial expressions for each word or phrase; encourage individual responses to capture the humour of the piece.

- Ask the children to get into a circle in the order of their word as it appears in the poem. Some children may need to have their word cards, but others may have memorised them.
- Ask the children to read their word or words in turn, up to the word 'EXPLODE'.
- Practise building a crescendo from 'Screech' to 'EXPLODE' as in recording 2. Tell them that, in their reading, everyone can say these words and shout 'EXPLODE' to make it the loudest word in the poem.
- Discuss how they read the poem, focusing on what worked well and which bits could be better. Remind them to think about expression, but also volume.
- Choose a solo voice to read the end of the poem after the word 'EXPLODE'.
- Practise until the reading flows. When practising the poem, the children should be taught to listen for their cue, i.e. when the person before them speaks.

**5 Perform***evaluate*

If possible, watch the video and invite the children to evaluate how well they performed individually and as a group. Use the following as prompts:

- Was I a good member of the group?
- Did I speak clearly and with expression?
- Did I listen carefully when other children were performing?
- What did I learn today about performing a poem?

# How to Successfully Persuade Your Parents to Give You More Pocket Money

by Andrea Shavick



Ask, request, demand, suggest, cajole, or charm  
Ingratiate, suck up to, flatter, compliment or smarm  
Negotiate, debate, discuss, persuade, convince, explain  
Or reason, Justify, protest, object, dispute, complain  
Propose, entreat, beseech, beg, plead, appeal, implore  
Harass, go on about it, pester, whinge, whine, nag and bore  
Annoy, insult, reproach, denounce, squeal, scream, and shout  
Go quiet, subdued, look worried, fret, brood, tremble, shiver, pout  
Act depressed, downhearted, upset, snivel, sigh  
Go all glum and plaintive, wobble bottom lip and cry  
Sniff, sulk, grumble, stare at ceiling, mope, pine, stay in bed  
Get cross, get angry, fume, seethe, fester, agitate, see red  
Provoke, enrage, push, bully, aggravate and goad  
Screech, smoke, burn up, ignite, spark, detonate, EXPLODE



And if all that doesn't work

Here are two little tricks  
That should do it with ease

No. 1: smile

No. 2: say please.

