

183 Riddles

Collected by C. J., 08/2016

By day and by night, I stay in bed,
Yet never sleep or rest my head;
I have no feet to skip or hop,
And yet I run and never stop. **1**

In spring, I look gay, decked in comely array,
In summer, more clothing I wear,
When colder it grows, I fling off my clothes,
And in winter quite naked appear. **2**

When I eat I live, but when I drink I die:
What am I? **3**

I'm tall when I'm young
And I'm short when I'm old.
What am I? **3a**

Riddle me, riddle me, riddle me ree,
I saw a nutcracker in a tree. **4**

It's grey, but not a wolf,
Long-eared, but not a hare,
With hooves, but not a horse.
What is it? **5**

Two brothers live across a path,
But never see each other. **6**

It is my parent's child, : it is not my brother,
It is not my sister. Who is it? **7**

You are my brother, but I am not your brother.
Who am I? **7a**

What is that which Adam never had,
Yet left to each of his children? **8**

What lives on its own substance
and dies when it devours itself? **8a**

Red and green, violet and blue,
I can't catch it and neither can you. **9**

It lives without a body,
Hears without ears,
Speaks without a mouth,
And is born in air.

What is it? **9a**

Little Nancy Etticoat,
In a white petticoat and a red nose –
The longer she stands,
The shorter she grows. **10**

Old Mother Twitchett had but one eye,
And a long tail, which she let fly.
And every time she went through a gap
She left a bit of her tail in a trap. **11**

At night they come without being fetched,
And by day they are lost without being stolen.
11a

As I was going to St. Ives, I met a man with seven
wives,
Each wife had seven sacks, each sack had seven
cats,
Each cat had seven kittens: kits, cats, sacks and
wives,
How many men were going to St. Ives? **12**

Two brothers are we, great burdens we bear
On which we are utterly pressed.
The truth is to say we are full all the day,
And empty when we go to rest. **13**

I eat iron and it runs red. **14**

It hears everything and says nothing. **15**

Thirty white horses upon a red hill
Now they stamp, now they champ,
Now they stand still. **16**

On a sunny day I have one, and so have you.
The oak in the field has one, too. **17**

What is without hands and without feet,
Without neck and head, but can open a door? **18**

I drape the hills in white,
I do not swallow, but I do bite.
What am I? **18a**

It runs all day, and never walks,
Often murmurs, never talks,
It has a bed, but never sleeps,
It has a mouth, but never eats. **19**

What has a single eye, but cannot see? **20**

Who are the two brothers
That live on opposite sides of the road
Yet never see each other? **20a**

I'm light as a feather, yet the strongest man
Can't hold me for more than five minutes.
What am I? **21**

There are two sisters:
One gives birth to the other,
And she, in turn, gives birth to the first.
Who are the two sisters? **22**

Skinny I am fast, fat I am slow,
But I'll still delight you from your eyes to your
nose. **23**

Without fingers, I point,
Without arms, I strike,
Without feet, I run. **24**

I am an instrument that you can hear,
But you cannot touch or see me.
What am I? **25**

I'm in everybody but everybody still wants me.
I won't feed you, but I'll feed the tree. **26**

I am the beginning of the end,
The end of every place.
I am the beginning of eternity,
The end of time and space.
What am I? **27**

The more it dries, the wetter it becomes.
What is it? **28**

My eye is dark, and my mane is yellow.
You may see me at the mart,

And I'm probably taller than you, fellow. **29**

When you do not know what I am,
Then I am something.
But when you know what I am,
Then I am nothing.
What am I? **30**

You use me from your head to your toes,
The more I work, the thinner I grow.
What am I? **31**

We hurt without moving.
We poison without touching.
We bear the truth and the lies.
We are not to be judged by our size.
What are we? **32**

I can be thin, but not fat,
In your body, but never on your placemat.
I'm always better when I'm fresh,
But you'll never see me in the flesh.
What am I? **33**

I only point in one direction,
But I guide people around the world.
What am I? **34**

I am very easy to get into,
But it is hard to get out of me.
What am I? **35**

I have eighty-eight keys,
But cannot open a single door?
What am I? **36**

I run over fields and woods all day.
Under the bed at night I sit not alone.
My tongue hangs out, up and to the rear,
Awaiting to be filled in the morning.
What am I? **37**

You wear me every day but you never put me on.
I will change colour if you leave me out too long.
What am I? **38**

I never was, am always to be,
No one ever saw me, nor ever will,
And yet I am the confidence of all
To live and breathe on this terrestrial ball. **39**

It is your possession and belongs to you.
However, you use it very rarely.
What is that? **40**

When you have me more,
You can see only less.
What Am I? **41**

What do you throw out when you want to use it,
But take in when you don't want to use it?? **42**

I don't speak, can't hear or speak anything,
But I will always tell the truth.
What am I? **43**

What can't be used unless broken? **44**

What is greater than God, more evil than the
devil,
The poor have it, the rich need it, and if you eat
it, you'll die? **45**

What does man love more than life?
Fear more than death or mortal strife?
What do the poor have, what the rich require,
And what contented men desire?
What does the miser spend, the spendthrift save,
And all men carry to their graves? **46**

What can go up and come down without
moving? **47**

You can't keep this until you have given it. **48**

What question can someone ask all day long,
always get completely different answers,
and yet all the answers could be correct? **49**

What has roots that nobody sees,
And is taller than trees,
Up, up it goes, and yet it never grows.
What is it? **50**

I have four wings, but cannot fly,
I never laugh and never cry;
On the same spot I'm always found,

Toiling away with little sound.
What am I? **51**

I have holes on the top and bottom.
I have holes on my left and on my right.
And I have holes in the middle,
Yet I still hold water.
What am I? **52**

The Pope has it, but he does not use it.
Your father has it, but your mother uses it.
Nuns do not need it.
Your lady friend's husband has it and she uses it.
What is it? **53**

I am a box that holds keys without locks,
Yet they can unlock your soul.
What am I? **54**

What falls but doesn't break,
And what breaks but doesn't fall? **55**

I am taken from a mine,
And shut up in a wooden case,
From which I am never released,
And yet I am used by almost everybody. **56**

What fastens two people yet touches only one?
57

A white dove flew down by the castle.
Along came a king and picked it up handless,
Ate it up toothless, and carried it away wingless.
58

What is it that goes with a carriage,
Comes with a carriage, is of no use to a carriage,
And yet the carriage cannot go without it? **59**

I have a little house in which I live all alone.
It has no doors or windows,
And if I want to go out
I must break through the wall. **60**

What is round as a dishpan, deep as a tub,
And still the oceans couldn't fill it up? **61**

It stands on one leg with its heart in its head. **62**

There are four brothers in this world
That were all born together.
The first runs and never wearies.
The second eats and is never full.
The third drinks and is always thirsty.
The fourth sings a song that is never good. **63**

Scarcely was the father in this world
When the son could be found sitting on the roof.
64

I am a window, I am a lamp,
I am clouded, I am shining, and I am coloured;
Set in white, I fill with water and overflow.
I say much, but I have no words.
What am I? **65**

This thing devours all things:
Birds, beasts, trees, flowers;
Gnaws iron, bites steel;
Grinds hard stones to meal;
Slays kings, ruins town,
And beats high mountain down.
What am I? **66**

The cost of making only the maker knows,
Valueless if bought, but sometimes traded.
A poor man may give one as easily as a king.
When it is broken, pain and deceit are assured.
67

You die without me, you never thank me.
You walk right through me, never feel me.
What am I? **68**

Each morning I appear to lie at your feet,
All day I will follow no matter how fast you run,
Yet I nearly perish in the midday sun.
What am I? **69**

Three lives have I.
Gentle enough to soothe the skin,
Light enough to caress the sky,
Hard enough to crack rocks.
What am I? **70**

I go around in circles,
But always straight ahead

Never complain,
No matter where I am led. **71**

I do not breathe, but I run and jump.
I do not eat, but I swim and stretch.
I do not drink, but I sleep and stand.
I do not think, but I grow and play.
I do not see, but you see me every day.
What am I? **72**

At the sound of me, men may dream
Or stamp their feet
At the sound of me, women may laugh
Or sometimes weep.
What am I? **73**

I'm not an airplane,
But I can fly through the sky.
I'm not a river,
But I'm full of water.
What am I? **74**

What didn't Adam and Eve have
That everyone else has? **75**

I have only two backbones
And thousands of ribs.
What am I? **76**

If you have it, you want to share it.
If you share it, you don't have it.
What is it? **77**

What is often returned but never borrowed? **78**

I went into the woods and got it.
I sat down to seek it.
I brought it home with me
Because I couldn't find it.
What is it? **79**

My head and tail both equal are,
My middle slender as a bee.
Whether I stand on head or heel
Is quite the same to you or me.
But if my head should be cut off,
The matter's true, though passing strange
Directly I to nothing change.
What Am I? **80**

I'm fatherless and motherless,

And born without sin.
Roaring when entering the world,
I never speak again.
What am I? **81**

Squeeze it and it cries tears as red as its flesh,
But its heart is made of stone.
What is it? **82**

I bought it and it is costly,
But I use it for hanging only.
What is it? **83**

You can see it everyday,
But cannot touch it.
What is it? **84**

What force and strength cannot get through,
I with a gentle touch can do.
And many in the street would stand,
Were I not, a friend, at hand.
What am I? **85**

I can sizzle like bacon,
I am made with an egg,
I have plenty of backbone,
But lack a good leg.
I peel layers like onions,
But still remain whole,
I can be long, like a flagpole,
Yet fit in a hole.
What am I? **86**

I'm white, and used for cutting and grinding.
When I'm damaged, humans usually remove me
or fill me.
For most animals I am a useful tool.
What am I? **87**

What animal has no wings,
But yet will fly? **88**

What can fill a room
But takes up no space? **89**

What flies when it's born,
Lies when it is alive,
And runs when it's dead? **90**

What has six legs, two heads,
Four ears, two hands,

But walks on four feet? **91**

Often held but never touched,
Always wet but never rusts,
Often bites but seldom bit;
To use me well you must have wit.
What am I? **92**

My teeth are sharp,
My back is straight,
To cut things up it is my fate.
What am I? **93**

My life can be measured in hours,
I serve by being devoured.
Thin, I am quick,
Fat, I am slow,
Wind is my foe.
What am I? **94**

Metal or bone I may be,
Many teeth I have and always bared,
Yet my bite harms no one
And ladies delight in my touch.
What am I? **95**

I saw a man in white,
He looked quite a sight.
He was not old,
But he stood in the cold.
And when he felt the sun,
He started to run.
Who could he be?
Please answer me. **96**

I move without wings,
Between silken strings,
I leave as you find,
My substance behind.
What am I? **97**

I love to dance and twist and prance,
I shake my tail, as away I sail,
Wingless I fly into the sky.
What am I? **98**

I have a hundred legs,
But cannot stand.
I have a long neck,
But no head. - I cannot see.
I'm neat and tidy, as can be.
What am I? **99**

I come out of the earth,
I am sold in the market.
He who buys me cuts my tail,
Takes off my suit of silk,
And weeps beside me when I am dead.
What am I? **100**

I am two-faced but bear only one,
I have no legs but travel widely.
I have greatest power when given away,
Yet lust for me keeps me locked away.
What am I? **101**

I am the only thing that always tells the truth.
I show off everything that I see.
I come in all shapes and sizes.
So tell me what I must be! **102**

I am taken from a mine
And shut up in a wooden case,
From which I am never released,
And yet I am used by almost everybody.
What am I? **103**

A doctor and a bus driver were both in love with
the same woman, an attractive girl named Sarah.
One day, the bus driver had to go on a long bus
trip that would last a week.
Before he left, he gave Sarah seven apples.
Why? **104**

They are dark, and always on the run,
Without the sun, would be none. **105**

Golden treasures I contain,
Guarded by hundreds and thousands.
Stored in a labyrinth where no man walks,
Yet men come often to seize my gold.
By smoke I am overcome and robbed,
Then left to build my treasure anew.
What am I? **106**

From house to house I go,
Sometimes narrow, sometimes wide.
And whether there's rain or snow
I always stay outside.
What am I? **107**

Forward and forward I go,
Never looking back.
My limit no one knows,
More of me do they lack.
Like a river I flow, like an eagle I fly.
Now can you guess, what am I? **108**

First you see me in the grass
Dressed in yellow gay;
Next I am in dainty white,
Then I fly away.
What am I? **109**

Only one color, but not one size,
Stuck at the bottom, yet easily flies.
Present in sun, but not in rain,
Doing no harm, and feeling no pain.
What is it? **110**

Even if you give this to someone else,
You still have to keep it.
What is it? **111**

I am a teacher,
Yet I am not a human, nor a robot. **112**

What's the difference
between gossip and a mirror? **113**

What's long and thin, covered in skin;
Red in parts, and put in tarts? **114**

When liquid splashes me, none seeps through.
When I am moved a lot, liquid I spew.
When I am hit, colour I change.
And colour, I come in quite a range.
What I cover is very complex,
And I am very easy to flex.
What am I? **115**

White bird, featherless,
Flying out of paradise,
Flying over sea and land,
Dying in my hand.
What is it? **116**

What is that with a neck and no head,
Two arms and no hands? **117**

What has teeth and can't bite? **118**

Four fingers and a thumb,
Yet flesh and blood I have none.
What am I? **119**

We are a pair, we can dart here and there,
Though we always stay in one place.
We can smile or shed tears,
Show our pleasure or fears,
And you'll find us in everyone's face.
What are we? **120**

I'm tempting, so it's said,
I have a shiny coat of red,
And my flesh is white beneath.
I smell so sweet,
Taste good to eat,
And help to guard your teeth.
What am I? **121**

Look in my face, I am somebody;
Look at my back, I am nobody.
What am I? **122**

What is it that has four legs
And one back, yet can't walk? **123**

What is the thing that,
Once poured out,
Cannot be gathered again? **124**

Round as an apple,
Deep as a cup,
All the King's horses
Can't pull it up.
What is it? **125**

I have streets, but no pavement.
I have cities, but no buildings.
I have forests, yet no trees.
I have rivers, yet no water.
What am I? **126**

I have no eyes, no legs or ears,
And I help to move earth.
What am I? **127**

A very pretty thing am I,
Fluttering in the pale-blue sky.
Delicate, fragile on the wing,
Indeed I am a pretty thing.
What am I? **128**

I come in many colours and I am very thin,
I am found in every country, even in your home,
I am very important,
You can be very creative with me,
I can even help you learn.
What am I? **129**

I'm hard as a rock, and as light as a feather.
I'm passed on to one another.
Poor people need me, and rich people have me.
What am I? **130**

I welcome the day with a show of light,
I stealthily came here in the night.
I bathe the earthy stuff at dawn,
But by the noon, alas! I'm gone.
What am I? **131**

With no wings, I fly.
With no eyes, I see.
With no arms, I climb.
More frightening than any beast,
Stronger than any foe.
I am cunning, ruthless, and tall;
In the end, I rule all.
What am I? **132**

I weaken all men for hours each day.
I show you strange visions while you are away.
I take you by night, by day take you back,
None suffer to have me, but do from my lack.
What am I? **133**

What runs around a city
But never moves? **134**

I run through hills; I veer around mountains.
I leap over rivers and crawl through the forests.
Step out your door to find me.
What am I? **135**
The more of these you take,
The more appear behind you. **136**

I have four legs but never walk,
I may be covered in flowers,
But have no soil.
I hold food three times a day,
But never eat a meal.
What am I? **137**

You can see in water,
But it never gets wet.
What is it? **138**

What fruit has its seeds on the outside? **139**

Only one colour, but not one size,
Stuck at the bottom, yet easily flies.
Present in sun, but not in rain,
Doing no harm, and feeling no pain.
What is it? **140**

There is one that has a head without an eye,
And there's one that has an eye without a head.
You may find the answer if you try;
And when all is said,
Half the answer hangs upon a thread. **141**

No legs have I to dance,
No lungs have I to breathe,
No life have I to live or die,
And yet I do all three.
What am I? **142**

You can see nothing else
When you look in my face,
I will look you in the eye
And I will never lie.
What am I? **143**

What goes up, but never comes down? **144**

A time when they're green,
A time when they're brown,
But both of these times, cause me to frown.
But just in between, for a very short while,
They're perfect and yellow, and cause me to smile!

What am I talking about here? **145**

What can be touched, but can't be seen? **146**

Three lives have I:
Gentle enough to soothe the skin,

Light enough to caress the sky,
Hard enough to crack rocks. **147**

What has a face and two hands, but no fingers?
148

It cannot be seen, cannot be felt,
Cannot be heard, cannot be smelt.
It lies behind stars and under hills,
And empty holes it fills.
It comes first and follows after,
Ends life, kills laughter.
What am I? **149**

Bright as diamonds,
Loud as thunder,
Never still,
A thing of wonder.
What is it? **150**

What does man love more than life,
Fear more than death or mortal strife,
What the poor have, the rich require,
And what contented men desire,
What misers spend, and spendthrifts save,
And all men carry to the grave? **151**

Riddle me this,
And riddle me that:
It's over your head,
Yet under your hat? **152**

You heard me before,
Yet you hear me again,
Then I die,
Till you call me again. **153**

Open me, and you can't see me without a mirror.
Close me and you can't see me at all. What am I?
154

Lovely and round,
I shine with pale light,
Grown in the darkness,
A lady's delight. **155**

Voiceless it cries, wingless flutters,
Toothless bites, mouthless mutters. **156**

In marble walls as white as milk,
Lined with skin as soft as silk,
In a fountain crystal clear,
A golden apple will appear.
There is no key to this stronghold,
Yet thieves break in and steal the gold. **157**

What gets wetter and wetter the more it dries?
158

What is shaped like a box,
Has no feet, and runs up and down? **159**

Two words, my answer is, only two words.
To keep me, you must give me. **160**

Rock and roll, rock and roll.
What rocks, but does not roll? **161**

If what goes up must come down,
What comes down that must go up? **162**

It goes up when rain comes down. **163**

Glittering points
That downward thrust,
Sparkling spears
That never rust. **164**

I am no sooner spoken, than broken.
What am I? **165**

I am always hungry, I must always be fed,
The finger I touch, will soon turn red. **166**

What can point in every direction,
But can't reach the destination by itself. **167**

Pregnant every time you see her,
Yet she never will give birth. **168**

You use a knife to slice my head
And weep beside me when I am dead.
What am I? **169**
Lighter than what
I am made of,
More of me is hidden
Than is seen. **170**

What always was, yet I can never be? **171**

My life can be measured in hours,
I serve by being devoured.
Thin, I am quick
Fat, I am slow,
Wind is my foe. **172**

All about, but cannot be seen,
Cannot be captured, cannot be held,
No throat, but can be heard. **173**

Each time you take a step
You make one of me,
But then you leave me behind. **174**

When I am filled
I can point the way,
When I am empty
Nothing moves me,
I have two skins
One without and one within. **175**

You can take off all of my skin
And I will not cry
But YOU will - why? **176**

Flat as a leaf, round as a ring;
Has two eyes, can't see a thing.
What is it? **177**

Almost everyone needs it,
Asks for it, gives it,
But almost nobody takes it.
What is it? **178**

I'm part of the bird that's not in the sky
I can swim in the water and yet remain dry.
What am I? **179**

Until I am measured
I am not known,
Yet how you miss me
When I have flown. **180**

What's the only thing
We know for sure is going to happen? **181**

What is better than God
Worse than the devil,

Rich people need it,
Poor people have it? **182**

What never gets any wetter,
No matter how much it rains? **183**

1 river
2 tree
3 fire
3a candle
4 squirrel
5 donkey
6 eyes
7 myself
7a You are my sister
8 a father
8a candle
9 rainbow
9a an echo
10 candle
11 a needle and a thread
11a stars
12 only one
13 shoes
14 rust
15 ear
16 teeth
17 shadow
18 wind
18a frost
19 river
20 needle
20a the eyes
21 breath
22 day and night
23 candle
24 clock
25 your voice
26 water
27 letter 'E'
28 towel
29 sunflower
30 riddle
31 a bar of soap
32 words
33 air
34 a compass
35 trouble
36 a piano
37 a shoe
38 skin
39 tomorrow
40 your name
41 darkness
42 an anchor
43 mirror
44 an egg

45 nothing
46 nothing
47 the temperature
48 your word
49 "What's the time?"
50 a mountain
51 windmill
52 a sponge
53 a last name
54 a piano
55 night and day
56 pencil lead
57 a wedding ring
58 Snow melted by the sun.
59 noise
60 a chick in an egg
61 a sieve
62 a cabbage
63 water, fire, earth, and wind
64 fire and smoke
65 I am an eye
66 time
67 promise
68 air
69 your shadow
70 water
71 wheel
72 leg
73 music
74 cloud
75 parents
76 railroad
77 secret
78 thanks
79 splinter
80 the figure eight
81 thunder
82 cherry
83 earrings
84 the sky
85 I am a key
86 I'm a snake
87 I'm a tooth
88 A caterpillar has no wings,
but will fly when it matures
and becomes a butterfly.
89 light
90 a snowflake
91 a horse and rider
92 tongue
93 a saw

- 94** I am the wax of a candle
95 a comb
96 a snowman
97 a spider
98 a kite
99 a broom
100 I'm an onion
101 a coin
102 I must be a mirror
103 I am pencil lead
104 An apple a day keeps the doctor away!
105 shadows
106 a beehive
107 a path
108 I am time
109 a dandelion
110 a shadow
111 your word
112 a book
113 One speaks without reflecting and
the other reflects without speaking.
114 rhubarb
115 skin
116 a snowflake
117 a shirt
118 a comb
119 a glove
120 two eyes
121 an apple
122 a mirror
123 It is a chair
124 rain
125 a well
126 a map
127 a worm
128 a butterfly
129 paper
130 money
131 the morning dew
132 the imagination
133 sleep
134 a city wall
135 the road
136 steps
137 a table
138 a reflection
139 a strawberry
140 It's a shadow
141 pin and needle
142 fire
143 your reflection
144 age
145 bananas
146 someone's heart
147 water
148 a clock
149 darkness
150 a waterfall
151 nothing
152 your hair
153 an echo
154 eyes
155 a pearl
156 the wind
157 an egg
158 a towel
159 an elevator
160 your word
161 a rocking-chair
162 the sun
163 umbrella
164 icicle
165 silence
166 fire
167 your finger
168 full moon
169 onion
170 iceberg
171 yesterday
172 a candle
173 wind
174 footprint
175 a glove
176 I'm an onion.
177 a button
178 advice
179 a shadow
180 time
181 We're going to die.
182 nothing
183 the sea