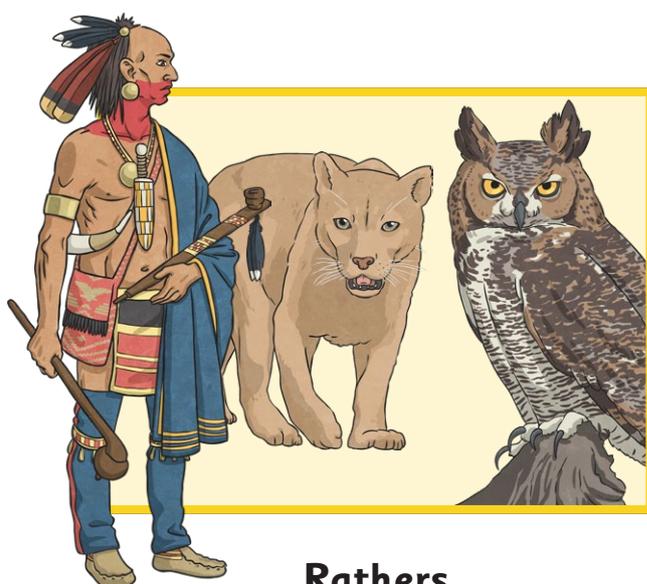


# Reading Booklet

## Year 3 Reading Assessment - Poetry



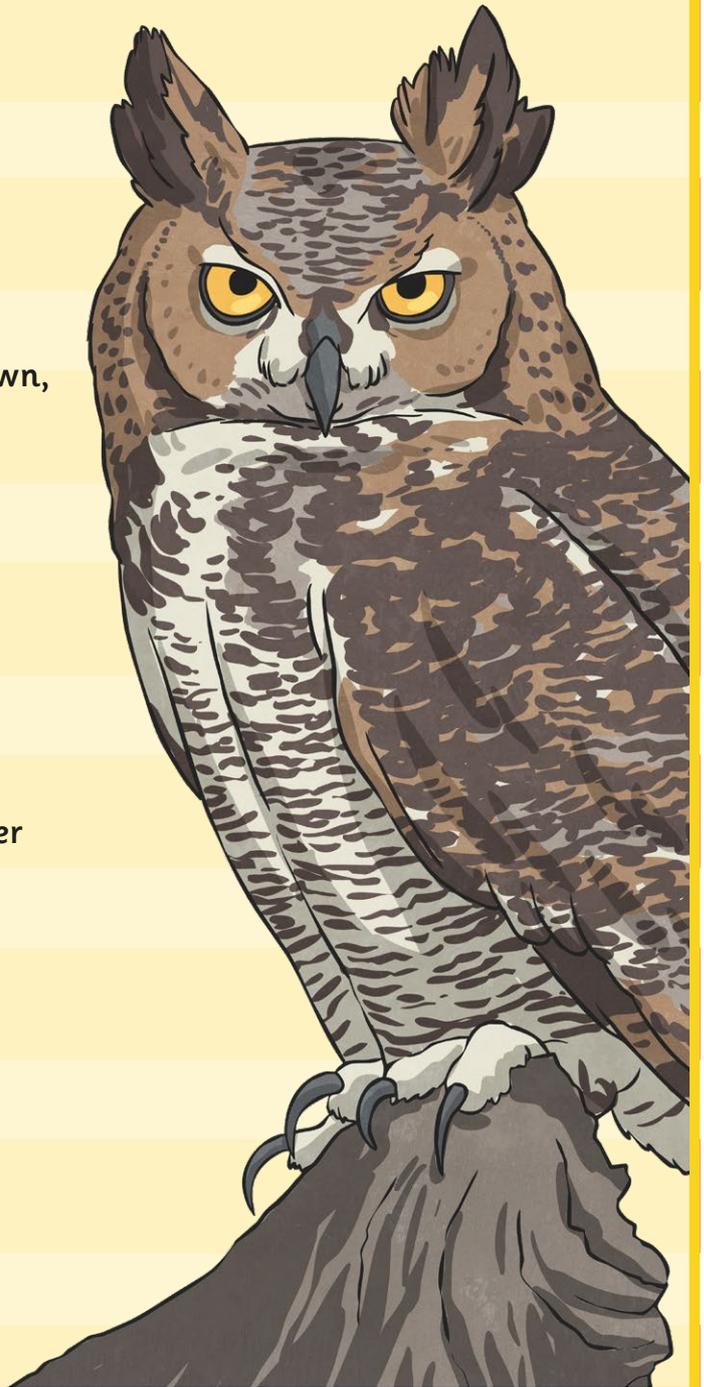
**Rathers**

# Rathers

by Mary Hunter Austin

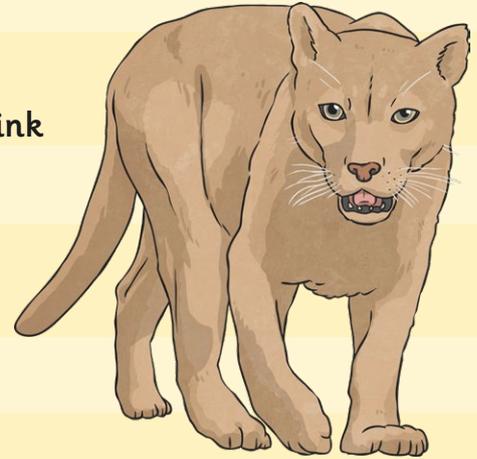
I know very well what I'd rather be  
If I didn't always have to be me!  
I'd rather be an owl,  
A downy feathered owl,  
A wink-ity, blink-ity, yellow-eyed owl  
In a hole in a hollow tree.  
I'd take my dinner in chipmunk town,  
And wouldn't I gobble the field mice down,  
If I were a wink-ity, blink-ity owl,  
And didn't always have to be me!

I know very well what I'd like to do  
If I didn't have to do what I do!  
I'd go and be a woodpecker,  
A rap-ity, tap-ity, red-headed woodpecker  
In the top of a tall old tree.  
And I'd never take a look  
At a lesson or a book,  
And I'd scold like a pirate on the sea,  
If I only had to do what I like to do,  
And didn't always have to be me!



## Rathers by Mary Hunter Austin

Or I might be a puma,  
A single-coloured puma,  
A slinking, sly-foot puma  
As fierce as fierce could be!  
And I'd wait by the waterholes where antelope drink  
In the cool of the morning  
And I do  
not  
think  
That ever any antelope could get away from me.



But if I were a hunter,  
A red Indian hunter –  
I'd like to be a hunter, –  
I'd have a bow made of juniper wood  
From a lightning-blasted tree,  
And I'd creep and I'd creep on that puma asleep  
A flint tipped arrow,  
An eagle feathered arrow,  
For a puma kills calves and a puma kills sheep,  
And he'd never eat any more antelope  
If he once met up with me!



**Red Indian** - a dated European phrase that was used to describe the Indigenous peoples of North America. This phrase is no longer used as it is offensive.