

16 Roger the Dog

Asleep he wheezes at his ease.
He only wakes to scratch his fleas.
He hogs the fire, he bakes his head
As if he were a loaf of bread.



He's just a sack of snoring dog.
You lug him like a log.



You can roll him with your foot,
He'll stay snoring where he's put.

I take him out for exercise,
He rolls in cowclap up to his eyes.

He will not race, he will not romp,
He saves his strength for gobble and chomp.



He'll work as hard as you could wish
Emptying his dinner dish,

Then flops flat, and digs down deep,
Like a miner, into sleep.

Ted Hughes

Do you remember?

Copy these sentences. Choose the correct word.

1. Roger only wakes to scratch his _____. (tummy **or** fleas)
2. He likes sleeping by the _____. (fire **or** radiator)
3. Roger _____ a lot. (barks **or** snores)
4. He likes eating and _____ best. (sleeping **or** running)
5. The only hard work he does is _____. (eating **or** digging)

More to think about

1. The poet chooses words to make an interesting word picture. Copy these lists and draw lines to words with similar meanings. One has been done for you.

Poet's words

wheezes
bakes
lug him
romp
gobble and chomp
flops flat

similar words

run and jump about
breathes noisily
eat
lies down
carry him
warms

2. Find a word in the poem that rhymes with:
 - a) head
 - b) log
 - c) put
 - d) eyes
 - e) romp
 - f) dish
 - g) fleas
 - h) deep



Now try these

1. Imagine Roger is your dog. Describe what happened when you wanted to take him to the shops with you. Think about what passers by might have been saying!
2. If you could choose any animal as a pet, what would you choose? Write three reasons for your choice.
3. Write a nonsense verse. Try to think of four other animals.



If I met a crocodile
I'd run a mile
If I met a _____
I'd _____

