If a horse were hoarse
and she couldn’t neigh,
what would a, what would a

So how would she feel,
this horse who’s hoarse
like a goat with a frog
in her throat?
Of course...

She’d be mad,
she’d be mad,
she’d be mad, and how!
She’d be having,
she’d be having,
she’d be having a cow.
If a Horse Were Hoarse

By Neal Levin

1. How many different kinds of animals are mentioned in the poem? ________
   List them all below.

   ____________________________________________________________

4. Line 11 says:
   with a frog in her throat.
   What does this expression mean?
   a. to have swallowed a frog
   b. to talk angrily
   c. to talk differently than normal because of a dry or hoarse throat
   d. to have a high-pitched voice

4. The last three lines of the poem start with the same three words. The poet does this throughout the poem. In poetry, this is known as
   a. metaphor
   b. repetition
   c. rhyming
   d. stanza
ANSWER KEY

If a Horse Were Hoarse

1. How many different kinds of animals are mentioned in the poem?    ___________
   List them all below.
   ____________________________________________________________________

2. What kind of words are horse and hoarse?
   a. homophones
   b. synonyms
   c. antonyms
   d. prepositions

3. What does the word hoarse mean in the poem? Look up the word if you need to.
   ____________________________________________________________________

4. Line 11 says: with a frog in her throat.
   What does this expression mean?
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