Opossums
By Liana Mahoney

On your back, three joeys ride

Pink-nosed babies blink, wide-eyed.

 Omnivore, your appetite

Until your babes have fully grown.

Meals of berries, snails galore –

Shared by moonlight, family of four.
1. Line 1 of the poem reads:
   On your back, three **joeys** ride.
   Define **joeys**.

2. What is this poem mostly about?
   a. An opossum hunting for food
   b. Baby opossums growing up
   c. A mother opossum taking care of her babies
   d. Opossums getting into trouble

3. Explain the meaning of following lines:
   Solitary, yet not alone
   Until your babies have fully grown.

4. Which two lines of the poem show that opossums are active at night?
   (Copy the words in the two lines.)

**Challenge:** This type of poem is called an acrostic poem. The first letter of each line spells out the word **opossum**. Write an acrostic poem about your favorite animal.
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1. Line 1 of the poem reads:
   On your back, three **joey**s **ride**.

   Define *joey*.

   **A joey is a young opossum.**

2. What is this poem mostly about?
   a. An opossum hunting for food
   b. Baby opossums growing up
   c. A mother opossum taking care of her babies
   d. Opossums getting into trouble

3. Explain the meaning of following lines:
   Solitary, yet not alone
   Until your babies have fully grown.

4. Which two lines of the poem show that opossums are active at night?
   (Copy the words in the two lines.)

   **Line 4:** Sends you stalking through the night.

   **Line 8:** Shared by moonlight, family of four.

**Challenge:** This type of poem is called an acrostic poem. The first letter of each line spells out the word **opossum**. Write an acrostic poem about your favorite animal.

Opossums are usually solitary animals who live on their own, but mothers will **carry** their babies **until** they are old enough to leave her.

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**ANSWER KEY**

A joey is a young opossum.

Opossums are usually solitary animals who live on their own, but mothers will carry their babies until they are old enough to leave her.

Line 4: Sends you stalking through the night.

Line 8: Shared by moonlight, family of four.

**Challenge:** This type of poem is called an acrostic poem. The first letter of each line spells out the word **opossum**. Write an acrostic poem about your favorite animal.