

The April Joke

Oh, it was a merry, gladsome day,
When the April Fool met the Queen of May;
She had roguish eyes and golden hair,
And they were a mischief-making pair.
They planned the funniest kind of a joke
On the poor, long-suffering mortal folk;
And a few mysterious words he said,
His fool's cap close to her flower-crowned head.
Then he laughed till he made his cap-bells ring,
At the thought of the topsy-turvy Spring.
"Tis a fair exchange," he said, with a wink—
"It is!" she said, and what do you think?
The flowers that should bloom in the month of May
Every one of them came on an April day!
And they looked for April showers in vain,
But all through May it did nothing but rain!



1. **Tick** true or false in the following table:

	True	False
The April Fool had roguish eyes.		
It rained all through April.		
No flowers bloomed in May.		



2. Do you think that the April Fool and the Queen of May had played tricks on the '*mortal folk*' before?



3. **Find** and **copy** the phrase that tells you that the pair of mischief-makers were sitting close together and secretly whispering about their plans.



4. What does the poet mean by a '*topsy-turvy Spring*'?

The April Joke Answers

1. **Tick** true or false in the following table:

	True	False
The April Fool had roguish eyes.		✓
It rained all through April.		✓
No flowers bloomed in May.	✓	

2. Do you think that the April Fool and the Queen of May had played tricks on the '*mortal folk*' before?
Yes – because it describes the 'mortal folk' as poor and long-suffering, as though they have had to deal with their tricks for a long time.
3. **Find** and **copy** the phrase that tells you that the pair of mischief-makers were sitting close together and secretly whispering about their plans.
His fool's cap close to her flower-crowned head.
4. What does the poet mean by a '*topsy-turvy Spring*'?
'Topsy-turvy' means turned on its head/flipped around. The mischief-makers had managed to make the flowers bloom in April and it rained all through May, which is the complete opposite of how it should have been.