

Riddle

Riddle is a smallest oral composition, which is widespread among the youth and children. A riddle is a statement or question or phrase having a double or veiled meaning and could include any object seen by human eyes, including the natural world, humans etc. Riddles are composed in question and answer style and the person who proposes or says the riddle expects the answer from the recipients.

We had a plot of land
We sowed black seeds
We have seen it with our own eyes
We have realized it with our own mind.

(Book)

There are riddles covering many aspects of social life of the Tajik nation. This includes the labor tools of all kind, natural occurrences the physical aspects of the human environment in short any object or notions that has place in human life.

A gold-thread embroidered curtain, that is full at night and empty in the day. (Sky with stars).

* * *

Daytime in trip, nighttime at the door.
(Shoes)

* * *

Five maidens sitting around one table. (Palm and fingers)

* * *

It flies without wings and sits but has no feet. (Snow)

* * *

There are two lines of saw and in the middle lamb. (Teeth and tongue)

Tongue-twister

A tongue-twister is a small folklore unit and is one sentence structured saying or a phrase that is designed to be difficult to articulate properly, and can be used as a type of spoken or sung word game. Tongue-twisters may rely on rapid alternation between similar but distinct phonemes (e.g., s [s] and sh [ʃ]), combining two or more different alternation patterns, including use of the loaned words or foreign words of a spoken language in order to be difficult to articulate. For example, *šastu šaš asp az man ast, or yoli aspam loyolud.*

Tongue-twisters have extremely simple meaning and are speech-activity type that elder siblings or grandparents do when young children start to talk. It is thought to help with speech development and articulation. Some produce results that are humorous when they are mispronounced, while others simply rely on the confusion and mistakes of the speaker for their amusement value. For example, *čalpak, čalabu čalab, labu lab čalačalpak* etc.

The speaker must pronounce and tell the tongue-twister with clear articulation and without mistake and in occasion of confusion in saying people would laugh. So the right pronunciation and the speed of tongue-twister recital depend on the memory and spelling skills often children organize a completion among themselves on tongue-twister saying.

Boloxona, tagxona.

Angur xurdem dona-dona,

Anguri mo širindona.

* * *

Dar boghi mo yak tutča,

In tutča čitu tutča.

* * *

In či dastambū, ki dastam bu zi dastambū girift.

* * *

Dar dasti oča bača, dar dasti bača kulča.

* * *

Šastu šaš šiša doštam, šast-to šišaaš šikastam.