

Maddie 1: There was once

Robbie 2: A man

Susie 3: Called Simon

Leah 4: Who hated fish.

Simon: Hello.

Maddie 1: He hated the way they looked.

Robbie 2: He hated the way they moved.

Susie 3: And he hated the way they smelt.

Leah 4: Whenever he went out, he'd say,

Simon: I'll have the Turf, but hold the Surf.

Maddie 1: And on Fridays,

Robbie 2: He went to a support group

Susie 3: called

Simon: 'Cod help us'

Leah 4: It didn't help that Simon lived in a house

Maddie 1: Next to the sea.

Robbie 2: He'd inherited it from his parents.

Susie 3: Who had both died

Leah 4: In a rainbow related accident.

Simon: It just collapsed.

Maddie 1: They'd also left him three cats,

Robbie 2: Two ducks,

Susie 3: Four chickens,

Leah 4: Twelve guinea pigs,

Simon: And a French poodle,

French Poodle (Robbie): Bonjour.

Maddie 1: Poor Simon found it very difficult to feed them all.

Robbie 2: Especially as his only job was writing poetry.

Susie 3: And poetry had been banned.

Leah 4: For being a bit rubbish.

Simon: There once was a man called Simon,
Who thought he was awesome at rhymin'.
He picked up his pen,
Again and again,
But he couldn't quite get the hang of timin'.

Maddie 1: One day,

Robbie 2: When Simon was being particularly avant-garde

Simon: [Picks out five random words from a hat and reads them aloud]

Susie 3: He noticed something wriggling by his feet.

Leah 4: [Wriggling by Simon's feet] It was a rainbow coloured fish!

Maddie 1: Simon felt that this was rather insensitive.

Robbie 2: It had only been a year since the accident.

Susie 3: Ignoring his revulsion, he grabbed the slimy fish by its tail,

Leah 4: And hurled it as hard as he could!

Simon: I'LL SEE YOU PASS WITH FLYING COLOURS (motherfucker)!

Maddie 1: The fish flew high into the air.

Robbie 2: Higher and higher into the air.

Susie 3: HIGHER AND HIGHER AND HIGHER. And then it started getting lower again.

Leah 4: Lower and lower and lower. Until it landed in the sea with a 'plop'.

Simon: I hope that doesn't turn out to be a red herring!

Maddie 1: Simon then remembered that no one was listening.

Robbie 2: And that his life wasn't part of a fixed narrative structure.

Susie 3: Or was it?

Leah 4: Just at that moment, Death appeared.

Simon: Oh balls.

Death (Maddie): That was a rubbish throw.

Robbie 2: Said Death.

Death (Maddie): And you are less attractive than other people.

Susie 3: Death liked to be insulting.

Leah 4: Only he wasn't very good at it.

Simon: Why have you come to see me? Is it my time to die?

Robbie 2: Simon hoped that Death wouldn't say yes.

Susie 3: Fortunately, Death did not say yes.

Death (Maddie): No.

Leah 4: Said Death.

Simon: Oh good. Otherwise there would be no one to feed my three cats,

Robbie 2: Two ducks,

Susie 3: Four chickens,

Leah 4: Twelve guinea pigs,

Simon: And the German Shepherd.

German Shepherd (Susie): Guten Tag.

Death (Maddie): You are a boring man. You've almost bored me to death.

Robbie 2: Then Death realised that he'd made a joke.

Death (Maddie): HAHAAHAAA.

Susie 3: Simon did not find it funny, but he pretended to laugh.

Simon: Haha.

Leah 4: Death then remembered why he'd come.

Death (Maddie): I've brought you this.

Robbie 2: He took out a pen.

Susie 3: And handed it to Simon.

Leah 4: Simon tried to be polite.

Simon: Oh, thanks, WHSmith, was it?

Robbie 2: But this pen was no ordinary pen.

Death (Maddie): This pen is no ordinary pen!

Simon: No, I know. It's got black ink. All of my pens are blue!

Susie 3: Death wanted to say a cutting remark.

Leah 4: But he couldn't think of the right word.

Death (Maddie): It's a magic pen! It will write the most wonderful plays and books this world has ever seen!

Robbie 2: Simon secretly believed that he could already do this.

Susie 3: But he felt that the pen might still come in handy.

Leah 4: So he said,

Simon: Thanks Death.

Death (Maddie): That's alright.

Robbie 2: Simon was about to walk away

Susie 3: Because he felt the conversation had come to a natural end.

Leah 4: But Death hadn't finished yet.

Death (Maddie): I will return in seven years to ask you three questions. If these are answered correctly, then I will spare your life. If not, then I will take you with me to the depths of nothingness.

Simon: Fair enough.

Robbie 2: And with that, Death vanished.

Susie 3: Without even saying goodbye.

Leah 4: Simon rushed home to write about everything that had happened.

Simon: You couldn't make this stuff up!

Maddie 1: As he began to write.

Robbie 2: He suddenly realised that he was writing the best thing the world had ever seen.

Susie 3: So he ran to the nearest publishers.

Leah 4: And was paid a million pounds on the spot!

Simon: Brilliant!

Maddie 1: Over the next seven years,

Robbie 2: Simon wrote more and more,

Susie 3: And became richer and richer,

Leah 4: He bought separate mansions for his

Maddie 1: Three cats,

Robbie 2: Two Ducks,

Susie 3: Four chickens,

Leah 4: Twelve guinea pigs,

Simon: And Russian terrier.

Russian terrier (Maddie): Breevyet.

Robbie 2: He was so thrilled by all this,

Maddie 1: That he completely forgot about Death's questions!

Susie 3: And one night, when Simon was at a particularly decadent soiree.

Leah 4: Death came back.

Simon: Oh yes, that's right. That's where this was going.

Death (Maddie): Is that you Simon?

Robbie 2: Simon trembled, and didn't know what to say.

Susie 3: But just then, the sweetest voice he'd ever heard echoed across the ballroom.

Rainbow Lady (Leah): Yes he is. That's your first question answered.

Death (Maddie): Excuse me; are you doing the talking for him?

Rainbow Lady (Leah): Yes I am. There's your second done.

Death (Maddie): And who the hell do you think you are?

Rainbow Lady (Leah): I am Isadora, queen of the sea, and seven years ago I lay gasping on the beach by this man's house. My powers had failed me, and I knew you were on your way. Simon saved my life, so now I'm saving his, because that's your third and final question, and now you can piss off.

Robbie 2: Simon was stunned.

Susie 3: Death was cross, but he knew he had been beaten.

Death (Maddie): Oh whatever. You're all dicks.

Robbie 2: And with that, he vanished once again.

Susie 3: Then Simon found his voice.

Simon: You're a fish.

Rainbow Lady (Leah): Yes, I am.

Simon: You're really beautiful.

Maddie 1: And he put on his very best charm.

Robbie 2: But she was way out of his league.

Susie 3: And just wanted to be friends.

Rainbow Lady (Leah): I've, er, got another friend back home. I think she'd really be your type. Maybe I should set you up sometime?

Simon: Yeah. Yeah, alright.

Maddie 1: So the lady went back to the sea.

Robbie 2: And Simon went back to his life.

Susie 3: And found comfort in his

Leah 4: Three cats,

Maddie 1: Two Ducks,

Robbie 2: Four chickens,

Susie 3: Twelve guinea pigs,

Simon: And British Bulldog.

British Bulldog (Leah): 'Oight.

Maddie 1: But one thing had changed.

Robbie 2: He loved fish

Susie 3: For the rest of his life.

Leah 4: And also he was massively wealthy and famous because he still had Death's pen...

Simon: [Clicks his fingers, does an Arthur pose, and winks]

The End.