Poetry Activity #1:

This activity can be used with people who have dementia, mild cognitive impairment, normal age-related impairment, or are very capable of making new memories. For the lowest-level participant, just have them read the poems to each other. For more capable participants, have them each memorize a line of the poem and who goes before them. For the most advanced participants, assign them a poem to memorize for homework.

People

Some people talk and talk

and never say a thing.

Some people look at you

and birds begin to sing.

Some people laugh and laugh

and yet you want to cry.

Some people touch your hand

and music fills the sky.

--Charlotte Zolotow

The Purple Cow

I never saw a purple cow,

I never hope to see one,

But I can tell you, anyhow

I’d rather see than be one.

--Gelett Burgess

I Wish That My Room Had a Floor

I wish that my room had a floor,

I don’t care so much for a door.

But this walking around

Without touching the ground

Is getting to be quite a bore.

--Gelett Burgess

Something New

They say, come up with something new

And everyone will buy it.

So I came up with a paper umbrella,

But no one was willing to try it.

--Shel Silverstein