**S3 Robert Henryson: Aesop’s Fables: The Paddock and the Mouse**

Name…………………….. Teacher……………. Date………….

1. Read the modern version of the poem; this maybe done with three readers,

one taking the part of the Mouse, one the paddock, and one the narrator.

2. Now look at the first three stanzas of the Scots original:

i Can you find the word that means *she*? .........................

ii What phrase is used for *she said* or *replied*? .........................

iii Find three words which begin with the letters *quh:*

.................. .......................... ..............................

iv Which letters would we use for this today? .............

Now answer from the original version:

3. Which foods does the mouse wish to have access to?

…………………………………………………………………………………..

4. Copy out the line where the mouse first expresses her suspicion of the paddock's intentions (line 2825):

………………………………………………………………………………….

5. In your own words, explain the paddock's argument in lines 2833‑50:

…………………………………………………………………………………..

6. How does the paddock plan to get the mouse across? (Own words)

…………………………………………………………………………………...

7. What must have happened in the middle of line 2858?

……………………………………………………………………………………

8. What does the mouse insist that the paddock should do? (Own words)

……………………………………………………………………………………

9. Write down the line where the narrator makes it plain for the first time that the paddock intends to kill the mouse:

……………………………………………………………………………………

10. Look at line 2892; what do you think *quhyle* means? ....................

11. Why is the ending so unexpected?

……………………………………………………………………………………

Moralitas

12. What idea is repeated at the end of each of the first three stanzas of the moralitas?

…………………………………………………………………………………….

13. What does the word *allegorical* mean? ..........................................………………

Which phrase in the Scots means the same as this? ........................……………..

14. What is represented by:

i the paddock (line 2937…) ..........................................................

ii the mouse (fine 2948…) ..........................................................

iii the water (line 2955…) ..........................................................

iv the gled (line 2962…) ..........................................................

Things to do:

1. Groups of three may read the poem, taking the three parts.

2. What is meant by Physiognomy? Do you think there is any truth in it?

(You might want to think about people like John Major, Adolf Hitler,

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Fred West, Mother Teresa, Michael Jackson ......)

3. Pick a stanza each and practise reading your own stanza.

4. Imagine the events at the river were reported by *thame that saw*;write the report as it would appear in:

i a tabloid newspaper ii a police report iii a news bulletin