

J – J – J – Jackdaw,  
circling the back door,  
showing off your knock for  
letting rip that high caw,  
cutting like a hacksaw  
through the evening's calm core,  
giving it the jaw – jaw!

Always with the comeback,  
coal-black crackerjack,  
joker of the haystack,  
ready with the wisecrack,  
giving it the backchat!

Castle-clatterer,  
silence-shatterer,  
tractor troubador,  
talker and squawker in  
fable and folklore from  
farmyard to seashore,  
giving it the nevermore!

King of the chimney-stack,  
the belfry bivouac,  
bright-eyed steeplejack,  
from church tower to tarmac,  
giving it the snicker-snack!

Don't call her Crow  
or Rook or Raven,  
for she is Jackdaw,  
grey-headed outlaw,  
fighting the class war,

dipping down on quick wings  
to hijack a wedding ring or  
ransack a knick-knack or  
snatch up a gimcrack  
while giving it the guffaw!

As dusk darkens Jackdaws gather  
to shake out feathers,  
jam-pack the brickwork,  
pick through the tidewrack,  
nestle in the bedstraw.  
duck through the trapdoor,  
fossick on the barn floor,  
bushwhack the ivy,  
gossip in the sycamore,  
this close to sleep  
still giving it the click-clack!

Why not learn  
the Jackdaw beatbox,  
the Jackdaw seesaw,  
the Jackdaw uproar,  
Jackdaw soundtrack,  
pulling on the ripcord  
furthermore and evermore,  
giving it the chainsaw,  
the whipcrack, the hee-haw,  
giving it the wherefore, the  
whyfore, the therefore,  
the J-J-J-J-Jackdaw!

## Questions:

- Find and copy three sounds the Jackdaw makes.
- Where does the Jackdaw like to watch the world from?
- True or false? Explain. Jackdaws are like magpies and steal shiny things.
- Choose two words that you do not know- look them up. What do they mean? Write the definition.
- Draw the Jackdaw. Can you add any other details you have read about in the poem?

