

The Ssssnake Hotel

Teachers' notes

- A performance of 'The Ssssnake Hotel' can be heard by visiting www.poetryarchive.org and typing 'Brian Moses'.
- The backing to the words makes use of the sort of brush used by drummers to give a soft beat. This is scraped across the skin of a tambour (tambourine without bells) to give the sound effect of a hissing snake. Sometimes hand bells can be added or a shaker strapped to the fingers.
- You could encourage the children to write their own version of the poem below – the spider motel, the tarantula tower block, the monkey museum, and so on.

The Ssssnake Hotel

An Indian python will welcome you
to the Ssssnake hotel.
As he finds your keys he'll maybe enquire
if you're feeling well.
And he'll say that he hopes
you survive the night,
that you sleep without screaming
and don't die of fright
at the Ssssnake hotel.

There's an anaconda that likes to wander
the corridors at night,
and a boa that will lower itself onto guests
as they search for the light.
And if, by chance, you lie awake
and nearby something hisses,
I warn you now, you're about to be covered
with tiny viper kisses,
at the Ssssnake hotel.

And should you hear a chorus of groans
coming from the room next door,
and the python cracking someone's bones,
please don't go out and explore.
Just ignore all the screams
and the strangled yells
when you spend a weekend
at the Ssssnake hotel.

Brian Moses

