

AEROMANIA

“If only we could fly,”
I said to Tim. “Let’s try
from the verandah rail.”
We left a trail of crushed
marigolds
where we crashed, flying,
or rather, trying.



Then Tim chopped a
bike up to make a helicopter.
We fixed blades on the spokes.
But then he pokes
his hand between, and cuts
it really bad, but
not right off. Our mother
says if there’s another
stunt like this, no TV
for either Tim or me.



“Never mind, fella,
we’ll use Dad’s umbrella,
and parachute instead
off the roof,” I said.
Tim broke his right leg.
Did we get a fright
that time!





So now I'm
waiting till he heals.
He says it feels better already,
but the X-rays show
it's got some way to go
before Tim and I get to try
the jumping feet (they're really neat)
that I've made with wire springs
from an old bus seat.
(We've given up on wings.)

Nothing can go wrong
this time, but I've a strong
suspicion, if it does, they'll all blame me –
but with no TV,
what can we do all day?
“Something constructive!” That's what they'll say!

Olga Beckett



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Aeromania

Read the poem and look at the pictures.

a) What are three ways the children have tried to fly in the first three verses?

i) _____

ii) _____

iii) _____

b) How does the border around the title of the poem give the idea of flying?

c) What part of the word 'Aeromania' tells us the poem is about flying?

d) What is their latest plan for flying?

e) What two injuries does Tim get?

i) _____

ii) _____

f) Find two sets of words from the third verse that rhyme.

i) _____ and _____ rhyme.

ii) _____ and _____ rhyme.

g) Who is the leader?
