***When the World Turned Upside Down***

By Xiaobai

The day the world

Turned upside down, (remember to include punctuation!)

The ones who had black hair

Theirs turned brown. (a gorgeous rhythm and rhyme scheme so far!)

When the worms hunted the birds

And the birds hunted the snakes,

Which (smugly) sneered at  (I’ve added this word to make the rhythm flow better, and also to get some sibilance in!)

The purple lakes.

When you slept at daytime

And woke up at lunch.

When the humans hunted gazettes

Which gave back a punch. (so entertaining!)

When the flies grew as large as a boot

The elephants turned as small as a mouse.

The humans lived in a nest across the street

When the owls lived in a house. (this is brilliant, I really like your rhyme scheme throughout)

When the moon turned blue

The sun shone silver, (I really like the balance of ‘moon…blue’ and ‘sun…silver’. It sounds lovely)

But dazzled so little,

It gleamed less than a mirror.

When the children worked

While the adults played,

Everything was free, ice cream

Even lemonade! (I would change this last part to, ‘When everything was free,

Ice-cream and lemonade!’)

Even when you tried to frown,

These just transformed into a smile

When a mile was a metre

And a metre, a mile. (I love that you’ve managed to work rhymes into here without taking away from any of the meaning)

All this really happened when the

World turned upside down

But this time I went to bed

Thinking luckily that a clown was a noun.

**What Went Well:**

-Your rhyme scheme here is so successful, Xiaobai! I love the choice to do alternating lines, I think it works wonderfully, and as I said above, you haven’t sacrificed any of the narrative to make the words rhyme. Very impressive!

-I think the overall concepts you’ve used are so funny and creative! I especially love the humans living in nests, and owls living in a house line. These ideas make the poem feel so thoughtful and hilarious.

-Your structure is really lovely, breaking up your work into stanzas of four lines, with a stanza at each end of the poem either introducing it or wrapping it up. This makes it feel like a real story, with a steady pace. Well done!

**Even Better If…:**

-While your rhyme scheme is fantastic and consistent, I feel your rhythm could use some work at times. If you read through my feedback on the actual poem, you will see where these areas for improvement are. All you need to do is read your poem aloud, and if you feel a line doesn’t fit with the natural rhythm created, just change around a few words to make it fit! You can even count syllables to make it exact!

-When writing a poem, punctuation is one of the most important things. If you feel that there is a natural pause at the end of a line, for example, ‘Even when you tried to frown, these just transformed into a smile’ sounds much better with that comma in the middle. Again, this is a problem that reading your poem aloud will help to solve, and over time you may become confident enough to use colons, semi-colons, dashes and other exciting pieces of punctuation in your work!

-I would absolutely love to see you challenging yourself to use imagery in your work; maybe a metaphor, or simile! These are slightly tricky to get into poems (due to the syllable constraints) but that’s exactly why it would be so impressive if you could!