

Concrete Mixers

The drivers are washing the concrete mixers;

Like elephant tenders they hose them down.

Tough grey-skinned monsters standing ponderous,

Elephant-bellied and elephant-nosed,

Standing in muck up to their wheel-caps.

Like rows of elephants, tail to trunk.

Their drivers perch on their backs like mahouts,

Sending the sprays of water up.

They rid the trunk-like trough of concrete,

Direct the spray to the bulging sides,

Turn and start the monsters moving.

Concrete mixers

Move like elephants

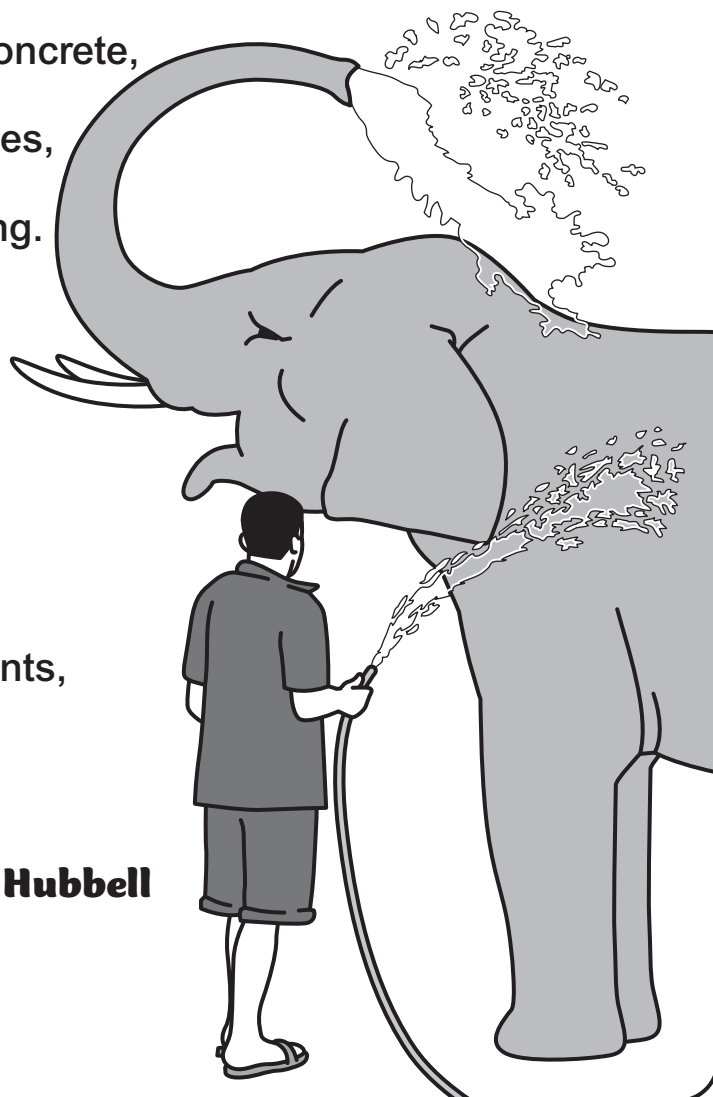
Bellow like elephants

Spray like elephants.

Concrete mixers are urban elephants,

Their trunks are raising a city.

Patricia Hubbell



Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Read the poem, and then answer the questions. Don't forget to support your answers with reference to the text.

- 1.** Describe exactly how the concrete mixers are like elephants.

- 2.** How do the drivers look after the concrete mixers?

- 3.** What do you think a 'mahout' is? Give a reason for your answer.

- 4.** Why do you think the poet compares concrete mixers to elephants?

- 5.** Explain the meaning of 'Their trunks are raising a city'.

- 6.** How do you think the poet sees elephants?
