

## Ode to the Prairie Dog

by John P. Curtin

Come to the prairie, and let's have a peek  
At the tree-less squirrel with the pear-shaped physique.

He inhabits the Plains and lives underground.  
The networks of tunnels he digs are called "towns."

His preferred diet is grasses and roots;  
In other words, he likes tubers and shoots.

He has a defense, although he is small;  
He warns friends of predators with his bark-like call.

Most folks would say, "As a pet, I would never."  
You have to admit, though, he is pretty clever.

