



Benjamin Franklin Riddles of his day

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*1At night they come without being fetched, and by day they
are lost without being stolen.*

*2I never was, am always to be, No one ever saw me, nor
ever will. And yet I am the confidence of all to live and
breathe on this terrestrial ball.*

*3Runs over fields and woods all day. Under the bed at
night sits not alone, With long tongue hanging out, A-
waiting for a bone.*

4Alive without breath, As cold as death; Never thirsty, ever drinking, All in mail never clinking.

*5This, all things devours: Birds, beast, trees, flowers; Gnaws iron, bites steel; Grinds hard stones
to meal; Slays king, ruins town, And beats high mountain down.*

6As light as a feather, but you can't hold it for ten minutes.

7It goes up and down the stairs with out moving.

8You can see nothing else when you look in my face I will look you in the eye and I will never lie.

9I am always hungry, I must always be fed. The finger I lick will soon turn red.

*10Three lives have I. Gentle enough to soothe the skin,
Light enough to caress the sky. Hard enough to crack rocks.*

11Glittering points that downward thrust. Sparkling spears that never rust

*12I went into the woods and got it. I sat down to seek it.
I brought it home with me because I couldn't find it.*

13It has no weight, you can see it. If put in a barrel, it will make the barrel lighter?

14Squeeze it and it cries tears as red as its flesh, But its heart is made of stone.

15What gets wetter the more it dries?

16All about, but cannot be seen, Can be captured, cannot be held. No throat, but can be heard.

17The more there is the less you see.

18They are Dark, and always on the run. Without the sun, would be none.

*¹⁹I have holes on the top and bottom. I have holes on my left and on my right.
And I have holes in the middle, yet I still hold water.*

²⁰The more you take the more you leave behind.

*²¹What can run but never walks, Has a mouth but never talks,
Has a head but never weeps, Has a bed but never sleeps?*

²²You break it even if you name it!

²³You feed it, it lives, you give it something to drink, and it dies.

²⁴Voiceless it cries, Wingless it flutters, Toothless bites, Mouthless mutters.

*²⁵If a man carried my burden, He would break his back.
I am not rich. But leave silver in my track.*

²⁶You must keep it after giving it.

²⁷Runs smoother than any rhyme. Loves to fall but cannot climb!

*²⁸My life can be measured in hours. I serve by being devoured.
Thin, I am quick. Fat, I am slow. Wind is my foe.*

*²⁹It cannot be seen, cannot be felt, Cannot be heard, and cannot be smelt.
It lies behind stars and under hills, and empty holes it fills.
It comes first and follows after, Ends life, kills laughter.*

³⁰A box without hinges, key, or lid. Yet golden treasure inside is hid.

³¹I go around in circles, But always straight ahead. Never complain, No matter where I am led.

*³²If you break me I do not stop working. If you touch me I may be snared,
If you lose me Nothing will matter.*

*³³Two horses, swiftest traveling, Harnessed in a pair,
And Grazing ever in places Distant from them.*

³⁴I pass before the sun and make no shadow.

27: river	18: shadows	9: fire	1: stars
28: candle	19: sponge	10: water	2: tomorrow
29: dark	20: steps	11: icicles	3: a shoe
30: egg	21: river	12: splinter	4: fish
31: wheel	22: silence	13: a hole	5: time
32: heart	23: fire	14: a cherry	6: your breath
33: eyes	24: wind	15: dish towel	7: a railing
34: night	25: snail	16: wind	(or a carpet runner)
	26: your word	17: darkness	8: mirror