

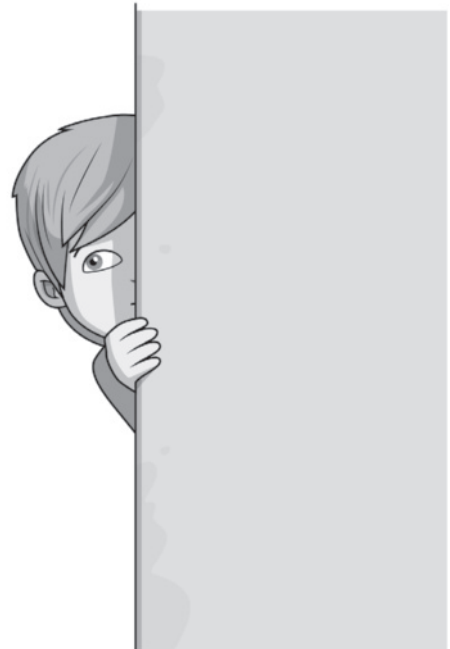


This poem is by Vernon Scannell.

This poem is about a child hiding during a game of hide and seek.

Hide and Seek

Call out. Call loud: 'I'm ready! Come and find me!'
 The sacks in the toolshed smell like the seaside.
 They'll never find you in this salty dark,
 But be careful that your feet aren't sticking out.
 Wiser not to risk another shout.
 The floor is cold. They'll probably be searching
 The bushes near the swing. Whatever happens
 You mustn't sneeze when they come prowling in.
 And here they are, whispering at the door;
 You've never heard them sound so hushed before.
 Don't breathe. Don't move. Stay dumb. Hide in your blindness.
 They're moving closer, someone stumbles, mutters;
 Their words and laughter scuffle, and they're gone.
 But don't come out just yet; they'll try the lane
 And then the greenhouse and back here again.
 They must be thinking that you're very clever,
 Getting more puzzled as they search all over.
 It seems a long time since they went away.
 Your legs are stiff, the cold bites through your coat;
 The dark damp smell of sand moves in your throat.
 It's time to let them know that you're the winner.
 Push off the sacks. Uncurl and stretch. That's better!
 Out of the shed and call to them: 'I've won!
 Here I am! Come and own up I've caught you!'
 The darkening garden watches. Nothing stirs.
 The bushes hold their breath; the sun is gone.
 Yes, here you are. But where are they who sought you?



Name:	Class:	Date:
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Hide and Seek

1

Identify where the person speaking in the poem is hiding.

1 mark 2b

2

What can the person hiding smell?

1 mark 2b

3

Why does the person hiding say *Wiser not to risk another shout*?

1 mark 2d

4

... *they come prowling in*.

In this line, the word *prowling* is closest in meaning to ...

Tick **one**.

- standing ☐
- rampaging ☐
- creeping ☐
- glimpsing ☐

1 mark 2a

5

Don't breathe. Don't move. Stay dumb.

Who are these instructions addressed to?

1 mark 2b

/ 5
Total for this page

6

After the seekers have left, why doesn't the person hiding come out straight away?

1 mark 2d

7

Getting more puzzled ...

What does the word *puzzled* mean?

1 mark 2a

8

The bushes hold their breath ...

What does this suggest about the garden?

1 mark 2g

9

What do you think the person expects to happen when they come out of hiding?

1 mark 2d

10

What does happen when the person comes out of hiding?

1 mark 2d

/ 10
Total for this test