



First Day At School

LET'S BEGIN



Do you remember your first day at school? How did you feel when you first entered the school? How do you feel now? Work with a partner and see how he/she felt on the first day of school?

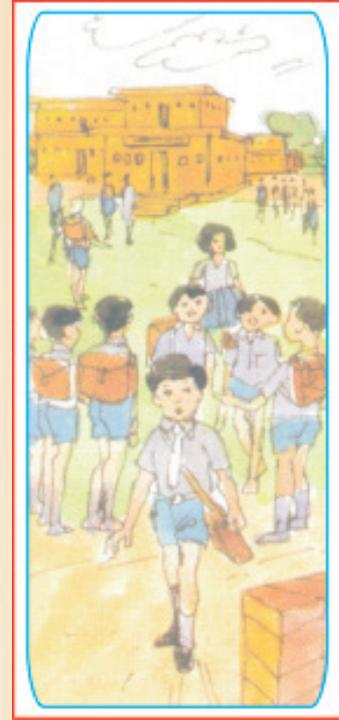
*A million billion willion miles from home
Waiting for the bell to go. (To go where?)
Why are they so big, other children?
So noisy? So much at home they
must have been born in uniform.
Lived all their lives in playgrounds,
Spent the years inventing games
that don't let me in. Games that are rough,
that swallow you up.
And the railings.
All around, the railings.
Are they to keep over wolves and monsters?
Things that carry off and eat children?
Things you don't take sweets from?
Perhaps they're to stop us getting out
Running away from the lesson,
What does a lesson look like?*





*Sound small and slimy.
 They keep them in classrooms,
 Whole rooms made out of glass. Imagine.
 I wish I could remember my name.
 Mummy said it would come in useful,
 Like wellies. When there's puddles.
 Yellow wellies. I wish she was here.
 I think my name is sewn on somewhere
 Perhaps the teacher will read it for me.
 Teacher, The one who makes tea.*

Roger McGough



Glossary

willion:	meaningless rhyming word (with 'million' and 'billion')
railing:	a fence made from posts and bars
wellies:	long rubber boots
puddle:	a pool of liquid on the ground, usually from rain

THINKING ABOUT THE POEM

Answer these questions:

1. Who do you think is the speaker of the poem?
2. What does the speaker feel about other boys in the school?
3. Who, according to the speaker, are the 'things you don't take sweets from'?
4. What 'glass rooms' does the speaker talk about? What does he imagine people do there?



5. What would the teacher read for the boy? Why do you think the speaker's name has been sewn on to him?
6. 'Sewn' is the past participle form of 'sew' (= to stitch). It is an irregular verb. Find out the past participle form of the following verbs:
go keep eat make carry
come think run write feel
7. Did you like the above poem? Why? Talk to a partner about it. Ask him/her about his/her views about the poem.
8. Write a paragraph of 100 words on your school. You may write:
 - About the building.
 - How far it is from your home.
 - What facilities you have and you don't have.
 - What is the school timing?
 - How many friends you have.
 - Are there enough plants and trees in and around your school?
 - What do you do to keep your school and classroom clean?
 - School Library
 - Any other.