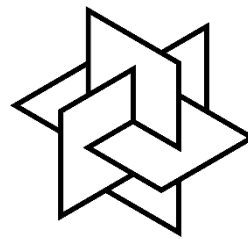

CE AT 13+

ENGLISH



ISEB
Independent Schools
Examinations Board

Core Reading (Specimen Poetry Insert)

Date

Specimen

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Read the poem *Hide and Seek*, by *Vernon Scannell*, and then answer the questions on the question paper.

Hide and Seek

Call out, call loud –
“I’m ready. Come and find me!”
The sacks in the tool-shed smell like the seaside.
They’ll never find you in the salty dark,
5 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
10 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
15 Someone stumbles, mutters
Their words and laughter scuttle 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,
20 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
25 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
30 Yes, here you are – But where are they who sought you?