

Prior Knowledge

What games do you like to play with your friends?



Making Connections

Do you like games where everyone plays together?

Perhaps you like games where a team wins?

What about games where there is only one winner?

Some children love games where they can compete against others, like tug o'war.

Have you ever played tug o'war or a game like it?



How does it feel when you are winning? Do you still have fun even when you lose the contest?

Read the poem called Hug O'War
By Shel Silverstein.

(It's on the next page!)



Hug O' War

by Shel Silverstein

I will not play at tug o' war.
I'd rather play at hug o' war,
Where everyone hugs
Instead of tugs,
Where everyone giggles
And rolls on the rug,
Where everyone kisses,
And everyone grins,
And everyone cuddles,
And everyone wins



Source:

<https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/hug-o-war-by-shel-silverstein>

You can listen to the poem being read here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6VUI3GxCVQ>

Find it, prove it, talk about it.

The poet has used a play on words to get us interested in the poem. **tug** o' war. **hug** o' war.

- What do you think each phrase means?
- Which phrase is the most positive?
- What do you notice about how '**tug**' and '**hug**' sound?
- Can you identify any other examples of this in the poem?
- Which lines in the first 4 lines rhyme with each other?*
- Make a list of as many words as you can which rhyme with:

giggles **kisses** **cuddles** **grins**

(There are some suggestions at the end if you get stuck!)

- Which 2 words are repeated most throughout the poem?
- Why do you think the poet chose to repeat these words?
- What message do you think the poet wants you to think about when you read the poem?

hug o' war.



This is the original illustration for the poem in the collection *Where The Sidewalk Ends*.

(*Pairs of lines which rhyme are known as **RHYMING COUPLETS**)



Main Idea

- Tug o'war is quite a rough game where two teams compete and try to win over their opponents. Replacing tugs with hugs, shows that the poet wants people to have fun and enjoy being with each other, without the need to win or lose.
- What is the poet telling us he thinks is the most important thing in life?
- What kind of games and activities does he think we should play?
- The poet is making a point about more than children's games. How does he think we should behave in every part of our lives?
- Do you agree with him?
- How do you think you could be kinder and co-operate more when playing?

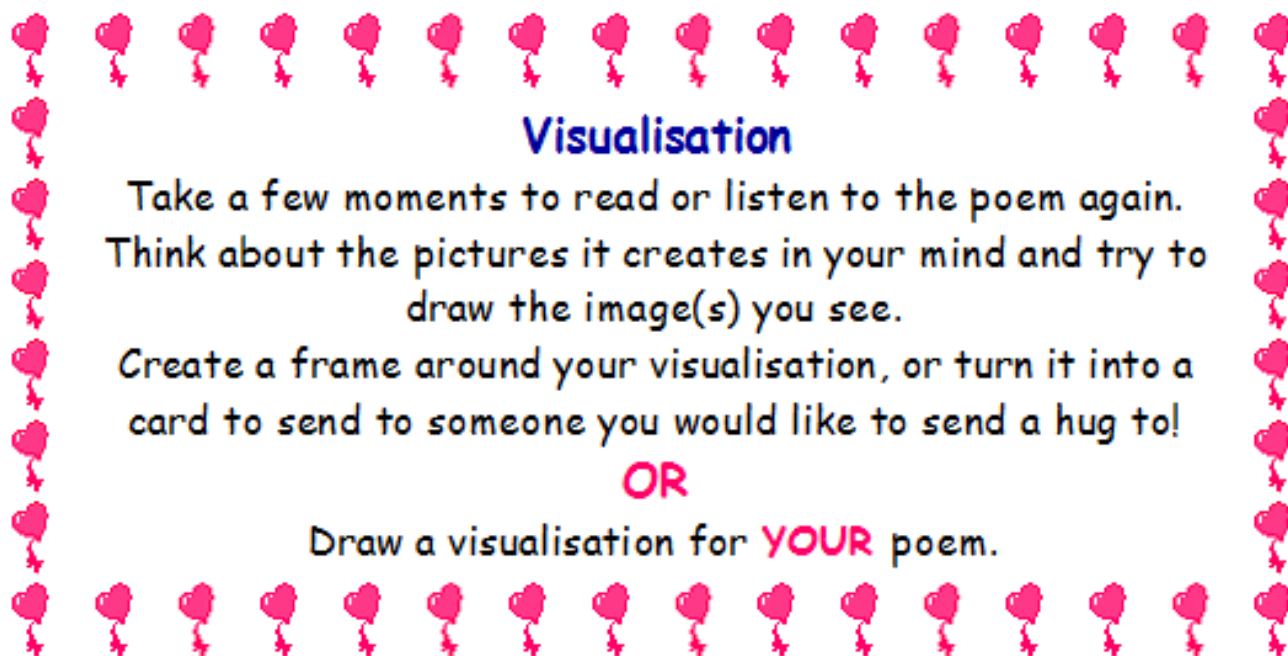


Create Something Great!

Use the pattern of the poem,
and adapt it to what **YOU**
would like to see in the world.
Start with a statement of what
you will not do, then add in all
the things you'd rather do!

Try to keep the pattern of
rhyme if you can!

I will not _____.
I'd rather _____,
Where _____
Instead of _____,
Where _____
And _____,
Where _____,
And _____,
And _____,
And _____.



Visualisation

Take a few moments to read or listen to the poem again.
Think about the pictures it creates in your mind and try to
draw the image(s) you see.

Create a frame around your visualisation, or turn it into a
card to send to someone you would like to send a hug to!

OR

Draw a visualisation for **YOUR** poem.



I will not eat my veg again.
I'd rather stand out in the rain.
Where I can eat jelly
Instead of cabbage that's smelly
Where I can eat chocolate
And drink lemonade from a goblet
Where everyone eats sweets
And hot dogs and pizza
And lots of yummy treats
And vegetables are banned forever and ever



Find it, prove it, talk about it. (P. 4)

Suggested rhyming words:

giggles

kisses

cuddles

grins

wiggles

misses

muddles

wins

niggles

hisses

guddles

bins

wiggles

huddles

pins

puddles

tins

fins

dins

sins

Create Something Great! (P.6)

Suggested alternative topics:

Basically anything you are interested in! Food is an easy one for most people but what about...

Homework?

Chores?

Exercise?

Brothers/sisters?

Staying up late?