

Question	Answer
1. Who is “I” in this poem?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • someone starting a new school • a child • a little, shy or new girl/boy
2. List three things you know are in the playground in the poem (apart from the children and the teacher).	<p>Accept any three of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skipping ropes • footballs • cup of coffee • whistle • sweets
3. How do you know what time of day it is?	<p>Accept an explanation based on the child’s own school day. E.g. Playtime finishes at 11 o’clock. The teacher is looking at his watch so it must be nearly the end of playtime.</p>
4. “One <u>skits</u> our headmaster.” Suggest another way the poet could have said the same thing with the same meaning.	<p>Accept suggestions that reflect the poet’s intention, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • makes fun of • sends up • mimics • copies in a silly way
5. “And everyone knows everyone else.” Why do you think the narrator included this information?	<p>The narrator is feeling lonely. He or she does not know anyone and it emphasises his or her feeling of being alone.</p>
6. Read the title of the poem. Is this a good title for the poem? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Give one reason from the poem to help explain your answer.	<p>Yes The title tells us what the problem is and why the narrator is feeling so lonely and unhappy.</p> <p>No The title is about being at school but the poem is just about being in the playground.</p>

7. What is the effect of starting most of the verses with the same two lines?

- It introduces new ideas in each new verse.
- The repetition makes it seem as if playtime is going on for a long time.
- It says what the child is doing.
- It shows when it is a new verse.
- It's a bit boring.

8. Do you think the playground seems like a happy place for most of the children?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Explain your answer.

Yes

- They have got footballs and skipping ropes.
- They are all playing games and shouting.
- They are sharing sweets and jokes.

No

- They are all arguing and shouting.
- Some of the girls might want to play football but they all have skipping ropes.

9. How does the poet want you to feel about the narrator? Explain your answer.

Accept answers such as:

- sorry for him/her because we understand why s/he is just standing in the corner of the playground and not trying to join in
- fed up with him/her because there is lots going on but s/he is so busy feeling sorry for him/herself and wishing s/he could go home