

### 3.4 Please don't read this poem!



Kenn Nesbitt is a children's poet. He writes humorous poems. They express children's feelings and experiences.

Ordinarily, all authors want people to read their literature. But funnily, the author of this poem keeps on warning the reader NOT to read his poem. The warnings have just the opposite effect. You are tempted even more to read the poem.

Mia : Please don't bark so loudly.  
Toto : Please don't give me instructions.

Paddy : Don't watch so much TV.

Bittu : Don't eat junk food.

Kuku : Don't use fairness creams.

**Warming up!**



- \* Have you ever been told not to do certain things? Did you stop doing that immediately? Or did you continue to do same any way?

Make a list of your 'don'ts in groups of five, discuss the list and complete the following table.

List of Don'ts	Stopped doing it	Tried it / Did it anyway
1. ....		
2. ....		
3. ....		
4. ....		
5. ....		
6. ....		

- \* When you write something, or paint something, or make something, do you want others to see it? Discuss the reasons for your answer.

## PLEASE DON'T READ THIS POEM

Please don't read this poem.  
It's only meant for me.  
That's it. Just move along now.  
There's nothing here to see.

Besides, I'm sure you'd rather  
just go outside and play.  
So put the poem down now  
and slowly back away.

Hey, why are you still reading?  
That isn't very nice.  
I've asked you once politely.  
Don't make me ask you twice.



I'm telling you, it's private.  
Do not read one more line.  
Hey! That's one more. Now stop  
it.  
This isn't yours; it's mine.

You're not allowed to read this.  
You really have to stop.  
If you don't quit this instant,  
I swear I'll call a cop.

He'll drag you off in handcuffs.  
He'll lock you up in jail,  
and leave you there forever  
until you're old and frail.

Your friends will all forget you.  
You won't be even missed.  
Your family, too, will likely  
forget that you exist.



And all because you read this  
instead of having fun.  
It's too late now, amigo;  
the poem's nearly done.

There's only one solution.  
Here's what you'll have to do :  
Tell all your friends and family  
they shouldn't read it too.

- Kenn Nesbitt

• **cop** : policemen • **frail** : weak • **amigo** : friend



## ENGLISH WORKSHOP

1. Present any two stanzas of the poem using proper intonation.
2. Find the pairs of rhyming words used in each stanza.
3. Think and answer :
  - (a) The poet is telling someone not to read the poem. Who is that someone ?
  - (b) What did you feel when you read the line 'Please don't read this poem' ?
  - (c) Does the poet really want you to stop reading the poem ?
  - (d) What does the poet mean when he says, "Tell all your friends and family they shouldn't read it too."
  - (e) What situation the following lines remind you of -  
'Put the poem down now and slowly back away'.
4. Decide whether the following things are right or wrong.  
Give reasons for your answer :
  - (a) Reading someone else's letter
  - (b) Reading someone else's diary
  - (c) Looking at the keyboard when someone is typing a password.
  - (d) Eavesdropping - Listening to other people's conversation without their knowledge.
  - (e) Trying to get someone's address, phone number, email ID without their knowledge.

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5. Read the lines given in the table. Discuss what they mean and when they might be used. Then use your imagination and name situations which these lines may be used by different speaker.

Lines	Situation	Speaker
* Just move along now. There's nothing here to see.	People gathering to watch a fight between two brothers.	A friend of the two brothers, who is trying to stop the fight tells the people.
* I've asked you once politely. Don't make me ask you twice.		
* This isn't yours, it's mine.		
* If you don't quit this instant, I swear I'll call a cop.		
* It is too late now.		
* Here's what you'll have to do.		

6. Add one or two lines before or after the lines given below to prepare a short dialogue.

- It's only meant for me.
- That isn't very nice.
- You really have to stop.
- There's only one solution.



7. Find all contracted forms used in the poem.

### Language Study

#### Questions with 'be' and 'have'

The auxiliary verbs 'be' and 'have' form questions without the help of 'do'.

#### Be

- Are you writing a story?
- Is she going home?
- Were they reading their homework?

Yes/No  
questions

#### Have

- Have I made a mistake?
- Have you written this?
- Has he given you a book?

- Where are you going?
- What is she painting?
- Why are you laughing?

Wh-  
questions

- What have you drawn?
- Why has he come?
- Where have you put it?