

POEM

FORM 1

News Break

by Max Fatchen

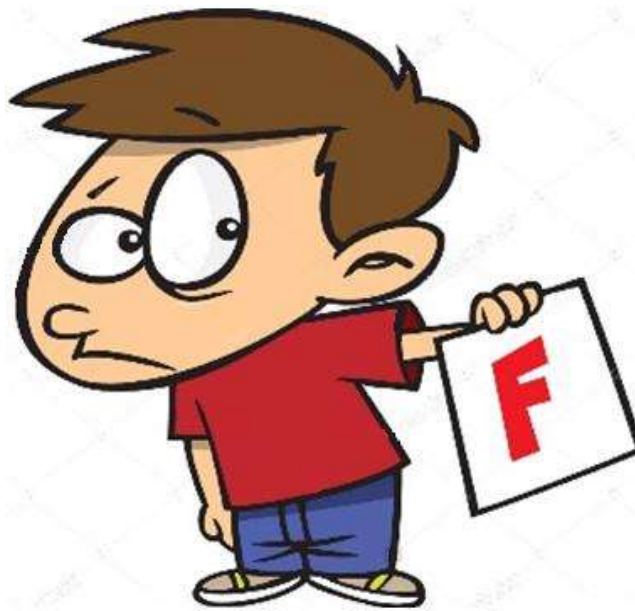


Image from <http://www.shutterstock.com/s/school+report+card/search.html>

Activity 1 : Comprehending the stanzas

Instructions:

From "**News Break**" by **Max Fatchen**, match the stanzas to its meaning.

Now why so loving, darling,
And why the sudden kiss?
You'd help me with some little jobs?
For goodness sake, what's this?

a) The persona feels she is talking to a stranger and not her usual noisy child. She wants to take a closer look at him to satisfy her curiosity.

Your face is clean for once, dear.
Your clothes without a crease.
You saved your luncheon money?
Will wonder never cease?

b) The persona is greeted with a kiss and hug from her son who offers to help her with some work. She is puzzled to see his change in behaviour.

No dropping of your school books,
No shrieking, childish treble.
Today you are a lamb, love,
Where yesterday a rebel.

c) He looks clean and his clothes are not wrinkled. It is surprising that he did not spend his pocket money.

But surely you're some stranger,
No rage or hullabaloo.
Come closer, let me look, dear,
Can this be really you?

d) She wonders what could be the reason for this change in him. Then, she notices his school report in his hand.

Now were you struck by lightning
Or were you stunned at sport?
Ah... now I see the reason.
You've brought your school report!

e) When he reaches home, the boy is not his usual rebellious self. Instead he acts meek and gentle.