

# The Peaceful Game

Poem

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✧ Exercise A: Discuss in class, asking the students what are the games they like. Also discuss the merits of chess as a game requiring mental activity.</li><li>✧ Exercise B: Make groups of 4 or 5. Discuss such qualities as foresight, strategy, focus, tactics, concentration, insight, practice, anticipating the opponent's moves, intelligence, etc.</li></ul>	<p><b>Get Going!</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✧ The poem describes the fun of playing the game of chess. It is an indoor board game that requires mental alertness and the capacity to anticipate several moves ahead.</li><li>✧ The first stanza tells us that the poet finds that it is 'a courteous game'. He is indicating that, unlike the field sports, chess does not involve rough-and-tumble like football or hockey or basketball. It is played indoors, with only two people sitting across a table with a chess board laid out between them, pitting their wits against each other. He plays it with his family and friends. He believes that it is a peaceful game where nobody gets physically injured or hurt.</li><li>✧ In the second stanza, the poet describes the concentration required to play chess. Both players focus intently on the game and the moves of the counters and never disturb each other. He does not behave 'like a pest', like some insect worrying his opponent, and he hopes his opponent will also play in the same way. That is why he believes they will both be playing at their best.</li><li>✧ In the third stanza, the poet looks at chess from a different standpoint. He says it is not really a gentle game. It is 'more like a war or a fight'. This makes sense because the counters of the chessboard are named after the components of an army: there are a king and a queen, a vizier, a castle, and horses and pawns or soldiers. The moves are like the attacks and defense of an army. And the players have to work out a strategy and use tactics against their opponent to win the game. But the poet says, unlike a war, the game starts with goodwill, by the opponents shaking hands so that both will play their best.</li><li>✧ In the fourth stanza, the poet says that when they play the opponents are enemies, and 'off the board we're friends'. They both realise that the game of chess is just that: a game. It is a pretended war, not real enmity.</li></ul>	<p><b>Read and Enjoy</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✧ And in the fifth stanza, he reiterates that thought, repeating the first three lines of the previous stanza. He adds that he hopes when the game is over, there will still be peace, the peace of friendship. He does not want the competition of the game to cloud their friendship.</li> <li>✧ The last stanza is a repetition of the first stanza.</li> </ul>
<b>Read and Understand</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✧ Exercises A, B, C and D: Read and explain the questions and answer them orally. Then ask the students to write the answers. Check and assess their work individually.</li> </ul>
<b>Appreciating the Poem</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✧ Explain, using the given instructions and examples, what the following are:  Simile - comparing two dissimilar things, using 'like' or 'as'  Metaphor - directly equating or comparing two dissimilar things, assigning the qualities of one to the other without using 'like' or 'as'  Alliteration - repetition of a vowel or consonant sound in a line  Oxymoron - a phrase combining two words of opposite meanings</li> <li>✧ Exercises A and B: Discuss and ask students to write the answers. Announce the answers aloud and let them check their work in pairs.</li> </ul>
<b>Write Well</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✧ Exercise A: Any reasonable answer relating to an indoor game is adaptable. For example: caroms, bridge, table tennis, card tricks and games, ludo, crossword or jigsaw puzzles, monopoly, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>AIL Activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✧ Exercise A: The students can be asked to do this on their own.</li> </ul>