

Where Do All the Teachers Go?

For a little child a teacher is special. It is difficult for a small child to think of his/her teacher as an ordinary person.

*Where do all the teachers go
When it's four o'clock?
Do they live in houses
And do they wash their socks?*

*Do they wear pyjamas
And do they watch TV?
And do they pick their noses
The same as you and me?*

*Do they live with other people
Have they mums and dads?
And were they ever children
And were they ever bad?*

*Did they ever, never spell right
Did they ever make mistakes?
Were they punished in the corner
If they pinched the chocolate flakes?*

*Did they ever lose their hymn books
Did they ever leave their greens?
Did they scribble on the desk tops*

*Did they wear old dirty jeans?
I'll follow one back home today
I'll find out what they do
Then I'll put it in a poem
That they can read to you.*

PETER DIXON

WORKING WITH THE POEM

1. Answer these questions.
 - (i) Why does the poet want to know where the teachers go at four o'clock?
 - (ii) What are the things normal people do that the poet talks about?
 - (iii) What does he imagine about
 - (a) where teachers live?
 - (b) what they do at home?
 - (c) the people with whom they live?
 - (d) their activities when they were children in school?
 - (iv) Why does the poet wonder if teachers also do things that other people do?
 - (v) How does the poet plan to find out? What will he do once he finds out?
2. What do you think these phrases from the poem mean?
 - (i) punished in the corner
 - (ii) leave their greens