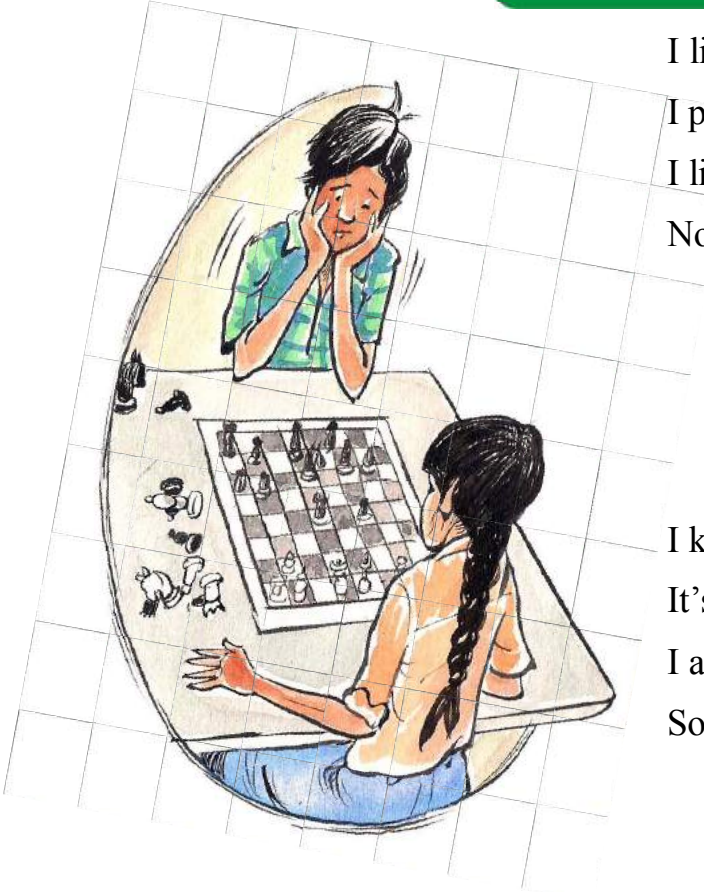


## Reading B

### The Peaceful Game



I like to think chess is a courteous game,  
I play it with family and friends,  
I like to think chess is a peaceful game  
Nobody gets hurt when it ends.

I never distract my opponent,  
I don't want to act like a pest,  
I hope they behave in the very same way,  
So both of us play at our best.

I know chess is not really gentle,  
It's more like a war or a fight,  
I always shake hands at the start and the end,  
So both of us play at our best.

On the board we're enemies,  
Off the board we're friends,  
On the board there is never peace,  
But that is just pretend.

On the board we're enemies,  
Off the board we're friends,  
On the board there is never peace,  
But off the board I hope for peace that never, never ends.

I like to think chess is a courteous game,  
I play it with family and friends,  
I like to think chess is a peaceful game  
Nobody gets hurt when it ends.

*Nathan J Goldberg*

## Meanings in context

- courteous : polite  
distract : divert attention  
opponent : player of the opposite team

## Comprehension

Answer the following questions.

1. Why do you think the poet calls the chess ‘a peaceful game’? Do you accept his view? Why/ why not?
2. Who are the opponents in the game?
3. There are many lines repeated in the poem. Why do you think the poet does so?
4. Find from the poem five words which are used with their antonyms.
5. Pick out the similes/ metaphors/ oxymorons/ alliterations used in the poem.

A Simile is a comparison between two unlike objects or feelings using ‘like’ or ‘as’ e.g. The bride’s dress was **as white as a cloud**.

A Metaphor is a comparison between two unlike objects or feelings without using ‘like’ or ‘as’ e.g. Alexander was the **lion** in the battle.

An Oxymoron is a phrase using two words of opposite meaning brought together in context e.g. **sweet sorrow** or **silent speech**.

An Alliteration is a repetition of a particular sound in a sentence in sequence e.g. the **wind whistled on the way, the fair breeze blew**.

6. Try to write rhyming lines using the hints provided.
  - i. I like the game of chess \_\_\_\_\_ mess/less/press
  - ii. I play it with family \_\_\_\_\_ silly/bully/jelly
  - iii. We play day and night. \_\_\_\_\_ light/fight/white
  - iv. It’s more like a war \_\_\_\_\_ bar/car/jar/far
  - v. There is never peace \_\_\_\_\_ ease/lease/tease