

STARTING POINT

Before starting a new school year, what do you think about? Write three positive and two negative thoughts. Share these with a partner and then discuss them in class.

Shel Silverstein
(1930–1999) was an American writer and musician. He wrote children's books, poems and songs. His books have been translated into 30 languages.

Shel Silverstein**Whatif**

Last night, while I lay thinking here,
Some Whatifs crawled inside my ear
And pranced and partied all night long
And sang their same old Whatif song:
Whatif I'm dumb in school?
Whatif they've closed the swimming pool?
Whatif I get beat up?
Whatif there's poison in my cup?
Whatif I start to cry?
Whatif I get sick and die?
Whatif I flunk that test?
Whatif green hair grows on my chest?
Whatif nobody likes me?
Whatif a bolt of lightning strikes me?
Whatif I don't grow taller?
Whatif my head starts getting smaller?
Whatif the fish won't bite?
Whatif the wind tears up my kite?
Whatif they start a war?
Whatif my parents get divorced?
Whatif the bus is late?
Whatif my teeth don't grow in straight?
Whatif I tear my pants?
Whatif I never learn to dance?
Everything seems swell, and then
The nighttime Whatifs strike again!

while imens
lay (to lie) lå
pranced danset
poison gift
flunk stryker
chest bryst
bolt of lightning lyn
tears up river istykker
kite drage
get divorced skiller seg
straight rett
swell flott