



'Hide and Seek' by Vernon Scannell

Summarise what the poem is about in full sentences:

Annotate the poem with points you remember from your initial study:

Hide and Seek

Call out. Call loud: 'I'm ready! Come and find me!
 The sacks in the toolshed smell like the seaside.
 They'll never find you in this salty dark,
 But be careful that your feet aren't sticking out.
 Wiser not to risk another shout.
 The floor is cold. They'll probably be searching
 The bushes near the swing. Whatever happens
 You mustn't sneeze when they come prowling in.
 And here they are, whispering at the door;
 You've never heard them sound so hushed before.
 Don't breathe. Don't move. Stay dumb. Hide in your blindness.
 They're moving closer, someone stumbles, mutters;
 Their words and laughter scuffle, and they're gone.
 But don't come out just yet; they'll try the lane
 And then the greenhouse and back here again.
 They must be thinking that you're very clever,
 Getting more puzzled as they search all over.
 It seems a long time since they went away.
 Your legs are stiff, the cold bites through your coat;
 The dark damp smell of sand moves in your throat.
 It's time to let them know that you're the winner.
 Push off the sacks. Uncurl and stretch. That's better!
 Out of the shed and call to them: 'I've won!
 Here I am! Come and own up I've caught you!
 The darkening garden watches. Nothing stirs.
 The bushes hold their breath; the sun is gone.
 Yes, here you are. But where are they who sought you?

What is the background to the writing of 'Hide and Seek'?	What is Scannell's intention in writing this poem?
When was this poem written?	to stir
What influenced the writing of this poem?	to scare
	to empathise
	to warn

Language		Structure and form	
	Example and effect		Example and effect
Verbs		Second person monologue	
Imperatives		Free verse	
Sensory language		Enjambment	
Onomatopoeia		Short sentences	
Personification		Punctuation	
Alliteration		Repetition	

What other poems in the anthology can we link to this poem to and why?

How does Scannell explore the loss of innocence in his poem 'Hide-and-Seek'?