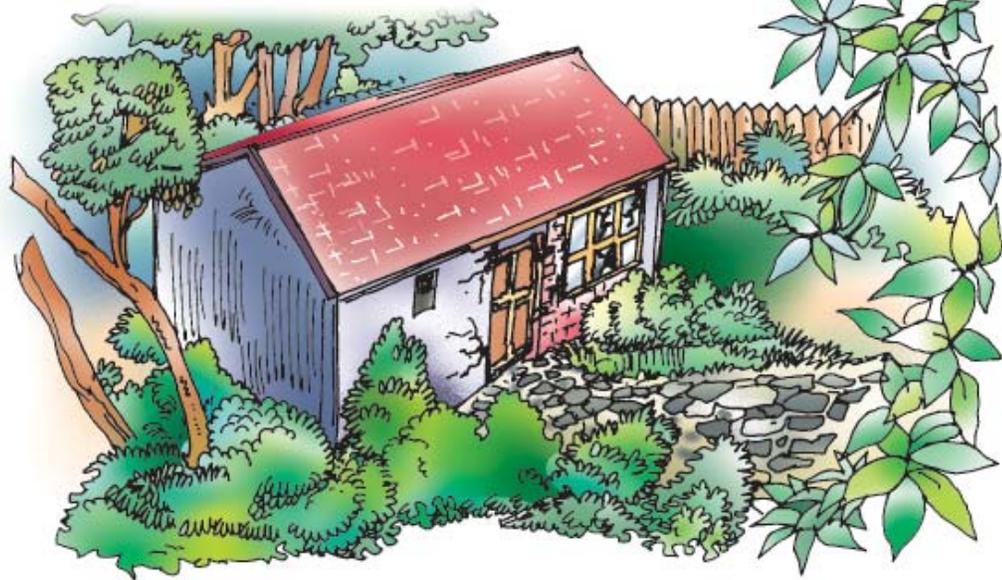


The Shed

Do you know what a shed is? A cow shed, a tool shed, a wood shed, for example. It's a small room, away from the main house, for storing or keeping things, animals, tools, vehicles, etc. Ask your partner if she/he has ever seen a shed. Let her/him describe it to the class.

Now read the poem.

There's a shed at the bottom of our garden
With a spider's web hanging across the door,
The hinges are rusty and creak in the wind.
When I'm in bed I lie and I listen,
I'll open that door one day.





There's a dusty old window around at the side
With three cracked panes of glass,
I often think there's someone staring at me
Each time that I pass,
I'll peep through that window one day.

My brother says there's a ghost in the shed
Who hides under the rotten floorboards,
And if I ever dare to set foot inside
He'll jump out and chop off my head,
But I'll take a peek one day.

I know that there isn't really a ghost,
My brother tells lies to keep the shed for his den;
There isn't anyone staring or making strange noises
And the spider has been gone from his web
since I don't know when,
I'll go into that shed one day soon,
But not just yet...

FRANK FLYNN

Working with the Poem

1. Answer the following questions.
 - (i) Who is the speaker in the poem?
 - (ii) Is she/he afraid or curious, or both?
 - (iii) What is she/he planning to do soon?
 - (iv) "But not just yet..." suggests doubt, fear, hesitation, laziness or something else. Choose the word which seems right to you. Tell others why you chose it.
2. Is there a room in your house or a house in your neighbourhood/locality where you would rather not go alone, and never at night? If there is such a place and a story to go with it, let others hear all about it.