

## The Word Party

Richard Edwards is a British writer. He was born in England and has spent time in Italy, France and Spain. He has written several collections of poetry, as well as lots of picture books. In this poem, he imagines how different types of words might behave at a party.

- Loving words clutch crimson roses,  
 Rude words sniff and pick their noses,  
 Sly words come dressed up as foxes,  
 Short words stand on cardboard boxes,  
 5 Common words tell jokes and gabble,  
 Complicated words play Scrabble,  
 Swear words stamp around and shout,  
 Hard words stare each other out,  
 Foreign words look lost and shrug,  
 10 Careless words trip on the rug,  
 Long words slouch with stooping shoulders,  
 Code words carry secret folders,  
 Silly words flick rubber bands,  
 Hyphenated words hold hands,  
 15 Strong words show off, bending metal,  
 Sweet words call each other 'petal',  
 Small words yawn and suck their thumbs  
 Till at last the morning comes.  
 Kind words give out farewell posies...
- 20 Snap! The dictionary closes.

Richard Edwards

- 1 Write down two things that the poet thinks are impolite.

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1 mark

- 2 Write down one adjective to describe the behaviour of "swear words" (line 7) according to the poem. Why do you think swear words are written about in this way?

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2 marks

- 3 Why do you think the poet says that hyphenated words "hold hands" (line 14)?

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1 mark

- 4 Why do you think line 20 is separated from all the other lines in the poem?

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2 marks

- 5 What technique does the poet use to make the words seem alive? Circle one.

a. irony      b. personification      c. hyperbole      d. exaggeration

1 mark

- 6 Which is your favourite line in this poem? Explain your answer.

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1 mark

- 7 Some people might say that dictionaries are boring books. Do you think this poem makes dictionaries seem boring or interesting? Explain your answer.

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2 marks

Total  
out of 10

## Answers

1. sniffing and picking your nose
2. E.g. Angry, because people often use swear words when they're angry.
3. E.g. Because they are joined together with a hyphen.
4. E.g. To make it stand out and make the ending of the poem seem very sudden and unexpected.
5. b. personification
6. Any appropriate answer. E.g. Line 12 is my favourite because code words are linked to spies, so the idea of code words carrying "secret folders" as if they were spies is clever and funny.
7. Any appropriate answer. E.g. Interesting, because it makes you imagine that all the words in the dictionary have different personalities and that they're all having a party inside the dictionary.