**Focus on Poetry in MILITARISM AND CHILDREN**

**Activity: For use when learning about the Cold War in MILITARISM AND CHILDREN**

**Your Attention Please**

**Peter Porter**

Your Attention Please

The Polar DEW has just warned that

A nuclear rocket strike of

At least one thousand megatons

Has been launched by the enemy

Directly at our major cities.

This announcement will take

Two and a quarter minutes to make,

You therefore have a further

Eight and a quarter minutes

To comply with the shelter

Requirements published in the Civil

Defence Code - section Atomic Attack.

A specially shortened Mass

Will be broadcast at the end

Of this announcement -

Protestant and Jewish services

Will begin simultaneously -

Select your wavelength immediately

According to instructions

In the Defence Code. Do not

Take well-loved pets (including birds)

Into your shelter - they will consume

Fresh air. Leave the old and bed-

ridden, you can do nothing for them.

Remember to press the sealing

Switch when everyone is in

The shelter. Set the radiation

Aerial, turn on the geiger barometer.

Turn off your Television now.

Turn off your radio immediately

The Services end. At the same time

Secure explosion plugs in the ears

Of each member of your family. Take

Down your plasma flasks. Give your children

The pills marked one and two

In the C.D green container, then put

Them to bed. Do not break

The inside airlock seals until

The radiation All Clear shows

(Watch for the cuckoo in your

perspex panel), or your District

Touring Doctor rings your bell.

If before this, your air becomes

Exhausted or if any of your family

In critically injured, administer

The capsules marked 'Valley Forge'

(Red Pocket in No. 1 Survival Kit)

For painless death. (Catholics

Will have been instructed by their priests

What to do in this eventuality).

This announcement is ending. Our President

Has already given orders for

Massive retaliation - it will be

Decisive. Some of us may die.

Remember, statistically

It is not likely to be you.

All flags are flying fully dressed

On Government buildings - the sun is shining.

Death is the least we have to fear.

We are all in the hands of God,

Whatever happens happens by His Will.

Now go quickly to your shelters.

**Questions:**

1. How is satire used in this poem?
2. What is the theme?

**Activity: Writing a Found Poem about MILITARISM AND CHILDREN**

Introduction: Found poetry is a type of poetry created by taking words, phrases, and sometimes whole passages from other sources and reframing them as poetry. It is the literary equivalent of a collage and is created by making changes in spacing and lines, or by adding or deleting text, thus imparting new meaning.

**Example: Barbie Doll Goes to College**

Now Barbie’s a coed!

Easy-to-assemble

College

Includes

Dormitory,

Sweet Shoppe,

Stadium,

Drive-In Movie

And campus scenes

Plus exciting

furnishings and accessories.

All in sturdy,

Colourful

chipboard.

Compact, with

convenient

Carrying handle.

Folds neatly

away.

**Write your own found poems, using ads and descriptions of war toys or war video games as source material.**

**Source:** Ronald Gross, published in ed. O’Donnell, James. J. (1971) *Now*

 *Poetry Try a Haiku Dig a Grook* Kitchener, Ontario: Edu-Media Ltd.