

We're Going to See the Rabbit by Alan Brownjohn

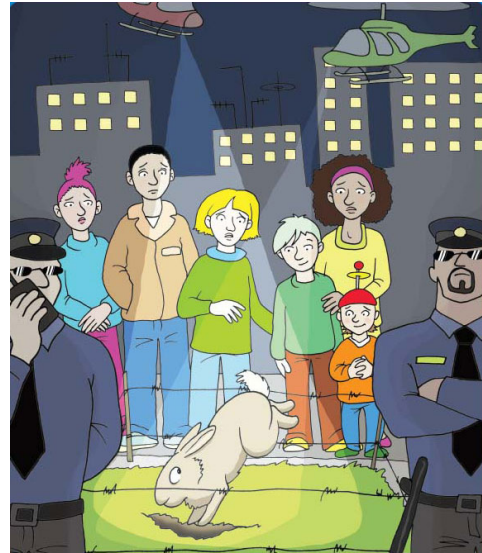
We are going to see the rabbit.
We are going to see the rabbit.
Which rabbit, people say?
Which rabbit, ask the children?
Which rabbit?
The only rabbit,
The only rabbit in England,
Sitting behind a barbed-wire fence
Under the floodlights, neon lights,
Sodium lights,
Nibbling grass
On the only patch of grass
In England, in England
(except the grass by the hoardings
Which doesn't count).
We are going to see the rabbit
And we must be there on time.

First we shall go by escalator,
Then we shall go by underground,
Then we shall go by motorway,
And then by helicopterway,
And the last 10 yards we shall have to go
On foot.

And now we are going
All the way to see the rabbit,
We are nearly there,
We are longing to see it,
And so is the crowd
Which is here in thousands
With mounted policemen
And big loudspeakers
And bands and banners,
And everyone has come a long way.

But soon we shall see it
Sitting and nibbling
The blades of grass
In – but something has gone wrong!
Why is everyone so angry,
Why is everyone jostling
And slanging and complaining?
The rabbit has gone,
Yes, the rabbit has gone.
He has actually burrowed down into the earth
And made himself a warren,
Under the earth,
Despite all these people,
And what shall we do?
What can we do?

It is all a pity, you must be disappointed,
Go home and do something for today,
Go home again, go home for today.
For you cannot hear the rabbit, under the earth,
Remarking rather sadly to himself, by himself,
As he rests in his warren, under the earth
'It won't be long, they are bound to come,
They are bound to come and find me, even here.'



Name:	Class:	Date:
--------------	---------------	--------------

1 **Find and copy** a phrase from the poem that explains why the narrator is so excited about going to see a rabbit.

2b

 1 mark

2 Which word in the second verse is invented?
 Why does the poet use this word?

2g

 2 marks

3 **Find and copy** the line from the poem where the poet suddenly realises that he might not see the rabbit.

2h

 1 mark

4 What does the poet want you to feel about the rabbit when you read these lines?
“Sitting behind a barbed-wire fence/Under the floodlights, neon lights/Sodium lights / Nibbling grass/On the only patch of grass/In England, in England” (verse 1)
 Explain your answer with reference to the text.

2g

 2 marks

5 What message does the poet want to give through this poem?

2c

 1 mark

6 Do you think *“they”* will manage to find the rabbit again?
 Explain your answer using ideas from the poem.

2e

 1 mark