Section-C Hide and Seek

About the Poet- Vernon Scannell was a British poet and author who was also a teacher of English literature and poetry. He was a professional boxer as well, and even wrote novels about the sport. Scannell was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1960. He is a recipient of the Heinemann Award for Literature (1961) and the Cholmondeley Poetry Prize (1974).

Summary- The poem is about a game of hide and seek that some young children are playing by the seaside. One of the players hides in a tool shed. He is very pleased that his friends cannot find him. He hears them come in and look for him, but keeps quiet. They go away, and he waits for a while, expecting them to come and look for him again or call out to him. But he is so well-hidden that they are not able to find him. Bored by the end, they leave. After a while, the boy comes out of his hiding place, only to find that his friends have left him and gone away. He is filled with mixed feelings of excitement and disappointment because even though he won, he actually lost the game

A N S W E R S-COURSEBOOK

Understanding the Text A. 1. hide and seek 2. seaside 3. the person who is hiding/the speaker 4. he doesn’t want to be caught 5. look in the toolshed

B. 1. The speaker is talking to himself. 2. The speaker says this so that he does not give away his hiding place by sneezing. 3. The bushes are the first place that the seekers are likely to search first. 4. The speaker does not want to take the risk of his wonderful hiding place being found by the others.

 C. 1. a. The child who is hiding in the toolshed can smell the sacks. b. The sacks have been inside the toolshed, which is by the seaside, and have started to smell like the seaside. c. The speaker is inside the toolshed.

2. a. The child who is hiding/the speaker must not breathe or move. b. One of the seekers knocks the can. c. If the speaker moves or makes a noise, he will be found by the other children.

3. a. The seekers would be frowning. b. They would frown because they would not be able to find the person who is hiding, and would be wondering where he had gone. c. The speaker is gleeful because he has outwitted his friends and almost won the game.

D. 1. The use of words like seaside, smell of sea, smell of sand, and so on tells us that the children are playing by the seaside. 2. The teacher may use these points to initiate a discussion: darkening garden—watching—no one else around—air is cold—feeling of loneliness and fear—shows disappointment. 3. Do yourself

 Playing with Words

A. 1. scuffle 2. funny 3. mutter 4. move 5. sister 6. proper

B. 1. noun 2. adjective 3 verb/adjective 4. adjective 5. verb/noun 6. verb/adjective 7. noun/adjective 8. adverb