



*“ Earth is the right place for love.”*

Robert Frost

## *The Doorway*



Let's look at the pictures above. Two boys are getting ready for school.

- ◆ What is the first boy doing?
- ◆ Is he happy?
- ◆ What is the reason?
- ◆ What about the second boy?
- ◆ What is his mother doing?

Now your teacher will tell you about his/her first day at school.  
How was your first day at school?  
Share with your friends.

# The Kissing Hand

In this story, a little raccoon named Chester is hesitant about going to school. Now, let's see what happens to him.



Chester Raccoon stood at the edge of the forest and cried. “I don’t want to go to school,” he told his mother. “I want to stay home with you. I want to play with my friends. I want to play with my toys. I want to read my books. I want to swing on my swing. Please, may I stay home with you?” Ms Raccoon took Chester by the hand and nuzzled his ear.

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- ◆ Chester doesn’t want to go to school. Why?
- ◆ If you were in Chester’s place, what would you do?



“Sometimes we all have to do things we don’t want to do,” she told him gently. “Even if they seem strange and scary at first. But you will love school once you start. You’ll make new friends and play with new toys. You can read new books and swing on new swings.”

“Besides,” she added, “I know a wonderful secret that will make your nights at school seem as warm and cosy as your days at home.” Chester wiped away his tears and looked interested.

“A secret? What kind of secret?”

“A very old secret,” said Ms Raccoon.

“I learned it from my mother, and she learned it from her mother. It’s called the Kissing Hand.”

“The Kissing Hand?” asked Chester.

“What’s that?”

“I’ll show you.”

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◆ Chester’s mother told him the old secret. What may be the secret?

Ms Raccoon took Chester's left hand and spread his tiny fingers into a fan. Leaning forward, she kissed Chester right in the middle of his palm. Chester felt his mother's kiss rush from his hand, up his arm, and into his heart. Even his silky, black mask tingled with a special warmth.

Ms Raccoon smiled. "Now", she told Chester, "whenever you feel lonely and need a little love from home, just press your hand to your cheek and think, 'Mommy loves you. Mommy loves you.' And that very kiss will jump to your face and fill you with toasty warm thoughts." She took Chester's hand and carefully wrapped his fingers around the kiss.



? ♦ How did Ms Raccoon help Chester overcome his fear?

“Now, be careful not to lose it,” she teased him.

“But, don’t worry. When you open your hand to wash after having food, I promise the kiss will stick.”

Chester loved his Kissing Hand. Now he knew his mother’s love would go with him wherever he went, even to the school. That night, Chester stood in front of his school and looked thoughtful.



Suddenly, he turned to his mother and grinned.

“Give me your hand,” he told her.

Chester took his mother’s hand in his own and unfolded her large, familiar fingers into a fan.

Next, he leaned forward and kissed the centre of her hand.

“Now you have a kissing hand, too,” he told her with a gentle “goodbye”.

“I love you,” Chester said as he turned and danced away.

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◆ How did Chester feel when he kissed his mother?



Ms Raccoon watched Chester scamper across a tree limb and enter the school. As the first bell of the new school year rang, she pressed her left hand to her cheek and smiled.

The warmth of Chester's kiss filled her heart with special words. "Chester loves you," it sang. "Chester loves you."

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- ◆ Who are the main characters in the story?
- ◆ Which part of the story do you like the most? Why?



### About the author

Audrey Penn is an American writer of stories for children. She is best known for *The Kissing Hand*, a picture book featuring raccoons with human qualities.



## Glossary

cosy	: giving a feeling of comfort
edge	: the outer boundary
gently	: in a kind manner
nuzzle	: to rub against gently with the nose and mouth
scamper	: to run with quick, light steps
scary	: causing fear
swing	: to move back and forth
tease	: to make fun of
tingle	: to experience a slight stinging sensation
tiny	: very small
toasty	: a pleasant feeling of warmth
warmth	: a pleasant sensation of comfort and affection
wipe	: to clean by rubbing
wrap	: to cover or enclose in paper or other soft material



## Activity 1

### Guessing Game

Choose some words from the unit and act them out.

Let your friends guess and find out the words.

If your friends can guess the word, they will be the winners.

If your friends fail to find out the word, you will be the winner.









## Activity 2

You have enjoyed reading the story, haven't you? In the story, Chester Raccoon experiences different feelings. Some of his feelings are given below in column A. Match them with the suitable emoji given in column B.

### column A

### column B

Chester's feelings	Emoji
When he gets new friends	
Fear of new students and teachers	
When mother compels him to go to school	
When he gets mother's kiss	



## Activity 3

### Art Gallery

Create imprints of the Kissing Hand by tracing your hands on a piece of paper.

Add a special message on them to show the love and support of your beloved ones.

Colour or paint to make them more attractive.

Hold an exhibition in the class room.



## Activity 4

Some events from the story are given below in a jumbled way. You may arrange them properly and write them down in the space provided.

- \* Ms Raccoon said she would share a wonderful secret.
- \* Chester took his mother's hand and kissed her palm.
- \* Chester told his mother that he did not want to go to school.
- \* Chester danced his way to school as his mother watched.
- \* Ms Raccoon kissed Chester in the middle of his palm.



## Activity 5

Chester Raccoon doesn't want to go to school. His mother compels him. Here is a part of the conversation that takes place between them. Complete the conversation and role play it.



Chester : Ma ...I don't want to go to school.

Mother : .....

Chester : .....

Mother : .....

Chester : .....

Mother : .....

Chester : .....

Mother : .....

Chester : .....

Mother : .....



## Activity 6

Chester and his mother visit the office of the school. Chester looks around. Here is what he sees. Describe it.



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## Activity 7

Chester comes to the class and sits on the front bench. His teacher comes and introduces herself. She asks the students to introduce themselves. Chester stands up and introduces himself. Here is his self introduction.

### Myself



Good morning dear friends.  
I'm Chester Raccoon.  
I'm from the forest.  
My father is Mr Raccoon.  
My mother is Chelsa Raccoon.  
I love my parents.  
I like running, jumping and playing.  
I would like to get new friends here.



Now introduce yourself to the class.  
How will you introduce yourself?  
You may write in the space provided.

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## Activity 8

When Chester and his mother reach school, they happen to see a notice board. Let's read the notice.

NOTICE BOARD	
	
Attend the class regularly.	Don't skip the morning assembly.
Follow your teachers' instructions.	Don't bring mobile phones.
Complete the assignments in time.	Don't use abusive language.
Reach the school in time.	Don't damage school property.
Keep the school clean.	Don't litter the school premises.



Imagine one of your teachers is on leave. Write down the dos and don'ts to be observed in your class in the absence of the teacher.

### Dos

Engage in creative activities.

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### Don'ts

Don't disturb other classes.

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## Activity 9

Read the following sentences from the story and note the words underlined.

I want to play with my friends.

I want to swing on the swing.

I don't want to go to school.

Chester felt his mother's kiss rush from his hand.



Pick out a few similar sentences from the story and write them down below.

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## Activity 10

Here is a conversation between Chester Raccoon and his class teacher. Read and supply the missing words. (with, to, from, in)

- Teacher : Good morning, could you tell me your name?  
Chester : Good morning teacher. I'm Chester Raccoon.  
Teacher : Where are you from ?  
Chester : I'm ..... the forest. It's a nice place.  
Teacher : Well. What do you like to do..... the forest?  
Chester : I like to play with my friends in the shade of trees.  
Teacher : That must be fun. Which game do you like the most?  
Chester : I like playing hide and seek ..... my friends.  
Teacher : That's great, Chester. When will you go ..... your house?  
Chester : Well, I'll go to my house after three days.  
Teacher : Ok. Thanks. We'll meet again.



## Activity 11

The following is the diary entry of Ainu. There are some errors in it. Read and edit it.

i went with a store to buy some fruits. I saw a big orange to the shelf and decided to buy it. I met my friend on that store. my friend invited me to go by the park and I went from her. we sat at the bench and ate the orange together. i threw the orange peel with the garbage.





## Activity 12

Read the sentences from the story and split them into two. One has been done for you.

1. You'll make new friends and play with new toys.

You'll make new friends.

You'll play with new toys

2. You can read new books and swing on new swings.

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3. She took Chester's hand and carefully wrapped his fingers.

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Read the passage given below and split the sentences.



A curious raccoon lived in the woods and it liked to explore new places. One day, it found a shiny object and decided to take it back to its cosy den. It placed the object on a soft bed of leaves and stared at it with wonder. The raccoon's eyes sparkled and it had discovered a beautiful toy.

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## Activity 13

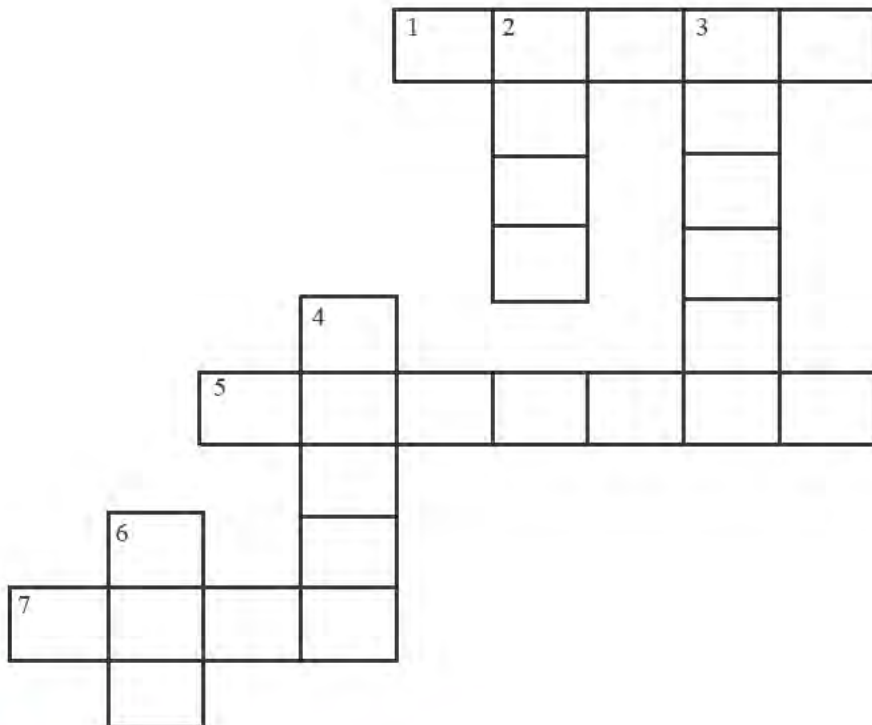
Shall we play with words? Complete the crossword puzzle using the clues given below.

### ACROSS

1. move or cause to move back and forth (5 letters)
5. to run or move quickly with light steps (7 letters)
7. giving a feeling of ease and well-being (4 letters)

### DOWN

2. to cover or enclose in paper or soft material (4 letters)
3. rubs something gently with the nose, as if to show affection (6 letters)
4. frightening; causing fear (5 letters)
6. an object that is made for a child to play with (3 letters)



You have many friends, haven't you?  
What qualities do you like in them?  
Now, read the poem about a true friend.

## A Friend

A friend is one who stands to share  
Your every touch of grief and care.  
He comes by chance, but stays by choice;  
Your praises he is quick to voice.

No grievous fault or passing whim  
Can make an enemy of him.  
And though your need be great or small  
His strength is yours throughout.

No matter where your path may  
Your welfare is his chief concern.  
No matter what your dream may  
He prays your triumph soon to turn.

There is no wish your tongue can  
But what it is your friend's as well.  
The life of him who has a friend  
Is double-guarded to the end.





### About the poet

Edgar Albert Guest (1881 - 1959) was born in England. His first poem was published at the age of seventeen. He has written more than 11,000 poems.



### Glossary

- concern : care, worry or interest in someone’s wellbeing
- enemy : a person who is actively opposed
- grievous : very serious
- guard : to protect
- triumph : a great victory or success
- welfare : the health, happiness and safety of a person or a group
- whim : a sudden desire



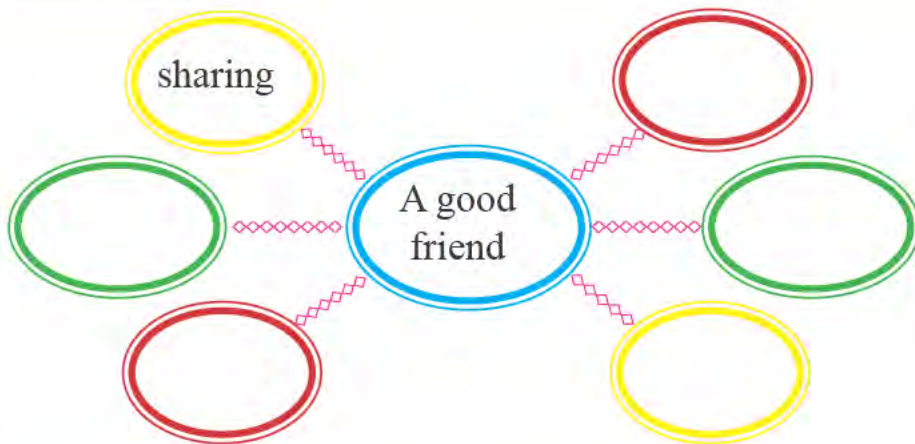
### Let’s explore the poem

1. Who is your best friend? Why is your friend important to you?  
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2. What do you learn about a good friend from the poem?  
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3. How does a friend’s presence make your life more secure?  
.....
4. How does the poem encourage us to be good friends?  
.....



## Activity 1

What are the qualities of a good friend? Complete the word web given below.



## Activity 2

Read the lines of the poem.

A friend is one who stands to share  
Your every touch of grief and care.

The words **care** and **share** end with the same sound. They are called rhyming words. Find out more rhyming words from the poem.

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### Activity 3

You all have friends, haven't you? Do you know the likes and dislikes of your friends? Ask your friends about their likes and dislikes and write them in the space provided. An example is given for you.

Tommy likes football. He doesn't like cricket.

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# The Dot

Here is the story of a young girl who believed that she could not draw pictures. Do you think she can draw? Let's see.

1



The art class was over, but Vashti sat glued to her chair. Her paper was blank.

2



the blank paper.  
“Ah! A polar bear in a snow-storm!” she said.  
“Very funny! I just can’t draw!” Said Vashti.

3



Her teacher smiled.  
“Just make a mark and see where it takes you.”

4



Vashti grabbed a marker and gave the paper a good, strong jab.  
“There!”

5

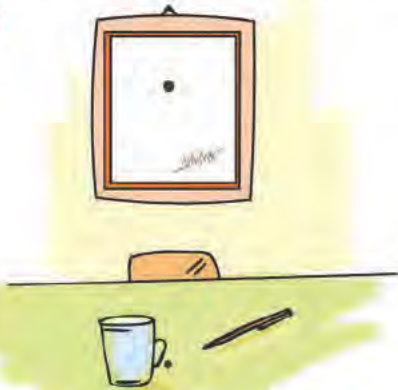


Her teacher picked up the paper and studied it carefully. “HmMMMM.” She pushed the paper towards Vashti and quietly said. “Now sign it.”



Vashti thought for a moment. ‘Well, maybe I can’t draw. But I can sign my name.’

7



The next week, Vashti walked into the art class. She was surprised to see what was hanging above her teacher’s desk. It was the little dot she had drawn—HER DOT! All framed in swirly gold!

8



“Hmmp!” I can make a better dot than that!” She opened her set of water colours and set to work.



9



Vashti painted and painted.  
A red dot. A purple dot.  
A yellow dot. A blue dot.  
The blue mixed with the  
yellow.  
She discovered that she could  
make a green dot.  
Vashti kept experimenting  
with lots of little dots in many  
colours.

10



If I can make little dots, I can  
make BIG dots, too.  
Vashti splashed her colours  
with a bigger brush on a bigger  
paper to make bigger dots.  
Vashti even made a dot by not  
painting a dot.

11



At the school art show a few  
weeks later, Vashti's dots made  
quite a splash.

12



Vashti noticed a little boy  
gazing up at her.  
“You’re really a great artist.  
I wish I could draw,” he said.  
“I bet you can,” said Vashti.  
“Me? No. Not I. I can’t even  
draw a straight line with a  
ruler.”

13



Vashti smiled.  
She handed the boy a blank  
sheet of paper.  
“Show me.”  
The boy’s pencil shook as he  
drew his line.

14



Vashti stared at the boy’s  
squiggle.  
And then she said....  
“Sign it.”

### About the author



Peter Hamilton Reynolds is a Canadian author and illustrator of children’s books. He is the founder of the educational media company, ‘FableVision’. Reynolds is best known for his children’s books about authentic learning, creativity, and self-expression.



## Glossary

- blank : empty or without any mark or writing
- experiment : to try out new or different methods or ideas
- gaze : to look steadily
- glue : to stick firmly to something
- jab : a forceful poke or push
- ruler : a straight edge used to measure or draw lines
- splash : to cause to scatter or spread in all directions
- squiggle : a curvy line
- swirly : having a spiral pattern



## Let's explore the story

1. Why was Vashti sad?

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2. What did the teacher ask Vashti to do after she had drawn the picture of a dot?

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3. What did Vashti's teacher do with her picture?

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4. Why did Vashti think she could make an even better dot?

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5. Vashti asked the boy to sign his picture. Why?

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6. What will the boy do next?

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## Activity 1

Some of the events of a story are illustrated below.  
Develop a story based on the pictures given.

