

## B. Reading

*Of all the games and sports you know, in which event do players get hurt most? In which event do players argue, scold one another, or sometimes fight? In what way chess is different from such games? Do you consider it a game of war or a game of peace?*

### Chess

I like to think chess is a courteous game,  
I play it with family and friends.  
I like to think chess is a peaceful game,  
Nobody gets hurt when it ends.

I never distract my opponent,  
I don't want to act like a pest.  
I hope they behave in the very same way,  
So both of us play at our best.

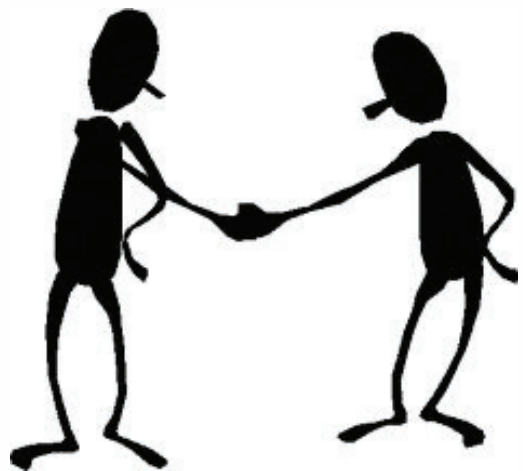
I know chess is not really gentle,  
It's more like a war or a fight.  
I always shake hands at the start and the end,  
So we can stay friends day and night,

On the board we're enemies,  
Off the board we're friends.  
On the board there's never peace,  
But that is just pretend.

On the board we're enemies,  
Off the board we're friends.  
On the board there's never peace,  
But off the board I hope for peace that never,  
never ends.

I like to think chess is a courteous game,  
I play it with family and friends.  
I like to think chess is a peaceful game,  
Nobody gets hurt when it ends.

- Nathan J. Goldberg



## Glossary

courteous(adj): polite and respectful; well-mannered

distract(v): to take somebody's attention away from what they are trying to do

### I. Answer the following questions:

1. How does the poet consider chess: a game of peace or a game of war?
  2. Which line strongly supports that chess is a peaceful game?
  3. Why does the author shake hands at the start and at the end? Do you think that the writer is special in doing that? Do you find this happens in other games too?
  4. What happens if you are distracted while playing chess? Do players try to distract their opponents to have the advantage? Is it fair?
  5. Stanza 4, line 1 says, "On the board we're enemies". Line 3 of the same stanza says, "On the board there's no peace". Then how can it be a peaceful game?
  6. Stanza 1, line 1 says that chess is a courteous game. Is the author courteous? Support your answer quoting from the poem.
- II. You know that words like 'friends' and 'ends' rhyme with each other. But do you know that complete lines can also rhyme with one another? For example, lines 1 and 3 in stanza 1 rhyme with each other. Both the lines have the same structure. This is called parallelism. Sometimes, they carry the same theme too - like these two lines. But they can contrast with each other too. There is such a pair in this poem. Pick it out.
- III. Parallelism is used in prose too. The author uses this technique to reinforce ideas of importance or to make the text more pleasurable to the reader, or both. Pick out the lines that show parallelism. What is its purpose?
- IV. 'Repetition' is another poetic device used by poets to reinforce ideas or to make a poem pleasing to the ears or both. In this poem you will find complete stanzas repeated. What are they? What is the purpose of repetition here?
- V. Try to write a parody replacing 'chess' with 'cricket' or any other game of your choice.

## Project

- I. How many of your friends play chess? Is there any remarkable player in your school, mandal or district? Write a short profile of that person and display it on your wall magazine.

