

## Preteen Pretext

My teenybopper has a phone;  
She really never is alone.  
It beeps and jitters day and night,  
Emitting tiny bluish light.

Her ring tone is the latest rage,  
As other preteens text and page.  
One- liner messages appear  
That make her grin from ear to ear.

The latest crisis, who likes whom,  
The rock star with the best perfume;  
Such weight matters cause her thrill  
And elevate our monthly bill.

And yet, the silver lining glows,  
For we have never come to blows.  
I never have to raise my voice,  
Because I have a high-tech choice.

If school assignments pile sky-high,  
I exhale with a weighty sigh.  
Like every modern mom who cares,  
I simply telephone upstairs.





When chores demand her energies,  
I simply text her, asking "Please!"  
No alibis or missing word,  
Because it's clear that she has heard.

And if my daughter goes outside  
To visit friends, both far and wide,  
Her curfew's easy to enforce  
With her new cellular resource.

This beeping tether holds her close,  
While helping her feel grandiose.  
If separation e'er occurs,  
My speed-dial links my heart to hers.

Our handy cell phones help us out,  
Convenient, easy, with no doubt.  
Yes, certainly, they have their place.  
But can't we talk once, face to face?

*- Linda Ann Nickerson*



## Glossary

jitters (v)	: makes nervous
emitting (v)	: sending out light
bluish (adj)	: blue in colour
grin (v)	: smile broadly
elevate (v)	: raise to a higher level
pile (v)	: lay things one on top of another
exhale (v)	: breathe out
chores (n)	: routine tasks
alibis (n)	: excuses
tether (n)	: a rope for tying an animal
grandiose (adj)	: planned on a large scale



## Comprehension

### Answer the following questions.

1. Who do you think is the speaker of the lines?
2. What attitude of the speaker is conveyed through the last two lines of the first stanza?
3. In what ways are the cell phones useful for us according to the poem?
4. What does the last line of the poem convey to us?

Talking to people such as parents, friends or teachers helps us share our thoughts and feelings. Sharing our feelings makes us feel better and get help in trouble. We often use cell phones to communicate with each other. As teenagers, we may receive certain messages that are not pleasant to read.

Similarly, while at school our peers may make comments on our body and the way it looks. But we do not make our body, Nature does. We need not take pride in or feel ashamed of our body. Respect and shame come from behaviour. When others tease or bully us, it tells us about the character of the bullier. They need to feel ashamed and they are to be blamed for their behaviour and not us.