

New Year, New Chances

Little Millie Molder:
One year older;
Year Three now, so she'll have to be bolder,
She's filling with worries,
Her feet getting hurried;
She just *can't* be late for her teacher Miss. Murid!

Cheeky Billy Shaw:
Always wants more
Especially now that he's up in Year Four;
An inch or so taller,
The playground looks smaller,
But he'll have to behave now he's got Mr. Lawler!

Clever Janna Jat:
She knows about *that!*
Year Five pupil with a head for stats.
Already in line
At a quarter to nine;
She and Mrs. Harrison will get along fine!

Lanky Jack Dyer:
Gets higher and higher;
Tall and thin like he's made out of wire.
He struts his way in
With a big Year Six grin
And is welcomed inside by his teacher, Miss. Jin!

Millie's sat in 3M,
Already a gem,
But because she doesn't know it, she plays with her hem.
Knows what to say
But fear gets in the way;
We'll catch up with her at the end of the day!

Billy's in trouble:
Bubble-gum bubble.
Mr. Lawler has sharp eyes above all that stubble.
Despite this first crime
They've got plenty of time;
A whole year to get from 'bad start' to 'sublime'!

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New Year, New Chances – Y4/P5/G3 – Text

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Janna is quick,
Her lessons just 'click',
She started with English; now arithmetic.
Some numbers to crunch
(She can handle a bunch),
But deep down she's scared she'll be lonely at lunch.

Jack's just too cool,
At the top of the school.
And about six-foot-eight when he's stood on a stool.
Miss. Jin isn't tall;
Barely five-feet, is all,
So if she can't reach an object, it's Jack she should call!

As Millie walks home,
It's as if she has grown;
Something's happened to help her step out on her own.
Miss. Murid was kind,
Put good thoughts in her mind
And in her own head Millie's been redefined.

At the end of the day
Billy's able to say
That after the bubble-gum, things went ok.
Mr. Lawler was fair
There are no grudges there
In future Billy will stay out of his hair.

Oh, if the day could extend!
Janna made a new friend,
So lunch wasn't lonely at all in the end.
Grace looked at a sphere,
Did the maths in top gear,
So expect Grace and Janna to stay friends all year!

Lastly, there's Jack
Who is glad to be back,
But now that school's ended it's time for a snack.
It's hard to sustain
Such a sky-scraping brain
So it's 'all you can eat' for his Year Six campaign!

Section A

1. What is a 'hem'? Use a dictionary to find out.

2. What does the word 'lanky' mean? Use a dictionary to find out.

3. What does Billy get in trouble for in the poem?

Section B

4. What do the italics used on the word 'can't' in verse one tell you about how Millie is feeling?

5. What is '3M'?

6. Choose one word which describes each character at the beginning of the poem.

7. What does it mean that Grace did the maths in 'top gear'?

Section C

8. What images does the phrase 'filling with worries' create in your mind?

9. What do the italics used on the word 'that' in verse three tell you about Janna's character?

10. What does it mean that Janna Jat 'has a head for' stats?

11. Choose an adjective for each character which describes them at the close of the poem.

Section D

12. What common features are repeated in each of the first four verses? What is the effect of this?

13. 'Already a gem'

- What does the word 'gem' mean in this sentence?
- Who might think she's a 'gem'?

14. What does Millie playing with her hen suggest about how she is feeling?

15. 'Oh, if the day could extend!' Who holds this sentiment?

16. Why might Grace and Janna become firm friends?

New Year, New Chances – Challenge Activity

Section A

These words have been taken from the story. Match each word to the correct meaning.

<u>Word</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
1. bold	a) short hairs that grow on a man's face when he has not shaved for a while
2. stats	b) work in an organised and active way towards a particular goal
3. stubble	c) confident and courageous
4. sublime	d) to walk with pride or pompousness
5. strut	e) excellent; inspiring
6. campaign	f) short for statistics

Section B

Choose the word with the closest meaning.

The word *worried* means...

	Tick one
disappointed	<input type="checkbox"/>
anxious	<input type="checkbox"/>
unsure	<input type="checkbox"/>

The word *strict* means...

	Tick one
firm	<input type="checkbox"/>
rude	<input type="checkbox"/>
unfair	<input type="checkbox"/>

The word *sustain* means...

	Tick one
feed	<input type="checkbox"/>
endure	<input type="checkbox"/>
suffer	<input type="checkbox"/>

The word *cheeky* means...

	Tick one
thoughtful	<input type="checkbox"/>
talkative	<input type="checkbox"/>
mischievous	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section C

Choose the word that best describes how each child is feeling at the beginning and end of the first day of school.

Student	Beginning of the Day	End of the Day
Millie Molder		
Billy Shaw		
Janna Jay		
Jack Dyer		

confident	hungry	timid	proud
lonely	respectful	relieved	cheeky

Section D

Determine whether each statement is true or false. Correct the false statements in the space below.

	True	False
Janna Jat met her new friend Grace during English class.		
Even though he got in trouble at the beginning of the day, Billy Shaw thinks his teacher is fair.		
Jack Dyer is anxious and dislikes school.		
Millie Molder's teacher is strict and unwelcoming.		
Billy is going to change his behaviour to keep out of trouble.		

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