

Step 1: Respond to the following question in your notebook.

1. What is a worrywart? What does a worrywart worry about? What is a couch potato? What does a couch potato do? Before You Read Connect to the Poems List Make a list of worries that a worrywart might have. Then make a list of things a couch potato does and does not do. Share your lists with a partner.
2. What would happen if we don't accept responsibility for our actions?

Step 2: Visual Interpretations: Watch and respond to the following nonprint texts.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Xk5INmJ01I>

<http://vimeo.com/28135810>

Step 3: Read the following poem and respond (annotate).

## **Jimmy Jet And His TV Set**

**by Shel Silverstein**

**I'll tell you the story of Jimmy Jet --  
And you know what I tell you is true.  
He loved to watch his TV set  
Almost as much as you.**

**He watched all day, he watched all night  
Till he grew pale and lean,  
From "The Early Show" to "The Late Late Show"  
And all the shows between.**

**He watched till his eyes were frozen wide,  
And his bottom grew into his chair.  
And his chin turned into a tuning dial,  
And antennae grew out of his hair.**

**And his brains turned into TV tubes,  
And his face to a TV screen.  
And two knobs saying "VERT." and "HORIZ."  
Grew where his ears had been.**

**And he grew a plug that looked like a tail  
So we plugged in little Jim.  
And now instead of him watching TV  
We all sit around and watch him.**

Step 4: After annotating the poem with comments, definitions, questions, and pictures identify figurative language, sound devices, and sensory language. Create a color coding system if you'd like. Be sure to include a Key. (Same for second poem)

Step 5: Complete activities for the second poem. Read, annotate and identify figurative language, sound devices, and sensory language.

### **Whatif by Shel Silverstein**

Last night, while I lay thinking here,  
some Whatifs crawled inside my ear  
and pranced and partied all night long  
and sang their same old Whatif song:

Whatif I'm dumb in school?

Whatif they've closed the swimming pool?

Whatif I get beat up?

Whatif there's poison in my cup?

Whatif I start to cry?

Whatif I get sick and die?

Whatif I flunk that test?

Whatif green hair grows on my chest?

Whatif nobody likes me?

Whatif a bolt of lightning strikes me?

Whatif I don't grow talle?

Whatif my head starts getting smaller?

Whatif the fish won't bite?

Whatif the wind tears up my kite?

Whatif they start a war?

Whatif my parents get divorced?

Whatif the bus is late?

Whatif my teeth don't grow in straight?

Whatif I tear my pants?

Whatif I never learn to dance?

Everything seems well, and then  
the nighttime Whatifs strike again!

Step 6: Answer the following questions.

1. What happens to Jimmy Jet and his tv set in the poem and why?
2. What is the purpose of this poem? What are readers supposed to get out of this poem and do you think the poet intended to send a message to his audience?
3. What poetic devices does Silverstein use to convey his message?
4. What is the mood and tone of the poem? Nonprint text?
5. What traits does each character have?
6. How has watching TV changed Jimmy's personality?
7. Where do Whatifs sing their song?
8. About how old is the speaker of "Whatif"? What clues help you infer this?
9. Compare the speaker of "Whatif" with "Jimmy Jet". How are they similar? (TIP: Identify the character's problem or struggle, identify what happens to each character...)
10. What lessons can you learn from "Whatif" and "Jimmy Jet and His TV Set"? Are these valuable lessons? Why or Why not?
11. Which character is more like you—the speaker of "Whatif" or Jimmy Jet? Explain.

Step 7: Review of Rhythm and Rhyme (copy this on your Literary Lingo sheet)

Rhythm is the pattern of beats made by syllables that are meant to be stressed (spoken with greater force) and syllables that are meant to be softer.

Meter is a regular, predictable rhythm. Rhythm and meter create a musical quality that makes poetry fun to read.

Step 8: Respond to the following practice questions.

1. A poem's rhythm can be regular (having a predictable pattern or meter) or irregular. Is the rhythm of "Jimmy Jet and His TV Set" regular or irregular? How can you tell?
2. How do the meter and rhythm in "Jimmy Jet and His TV Set" affect the poem's tone?
3. A rhyme is made of words whose sounds match, such as jet and set or here and ear. In poetry, rhymes can occur at the ends of lines or within a line.
4. Where do the rhyming words occur in "Whatif"?
5. What is the rhyme scheme of "Whatif"?

Step 9: Final Product

Apply Sound Devices Think of a person with a special or unusual trait. The person might be a worrywart, a brilliant thinker, or unusually strong. Write a poem about this person using rhythm, meter, and rhyme. Then read your poem aloud and have a partner tap along as you read.