



ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and talk about your ideas.

- 1 Is there a bridge where you live or near where you live?
- 2 Describe the bridge. (Is it old/new, big/small, etc?)
- 3 What are rivers used for?
- 4 Is there a river where you live or near where you live?

This poem is by Hilda Conkling, an American writer. She wrote all her poems before she was fourteen!

- 1 Read the poem. As you read, think about this question.
Who uses the old bridge?

'The Old Bridge' from *Poems by a Little Girl* (1920)

Hilda Conkling

The old bridge has an old face.

He **bends** his back

For us to go over.

He **moans** and cries

- 5 But we do not hear.

Sorrow shows in his face

For the heavy **weight** and worry

Of people **passing**.

The leaves of trees fall onto the water;

- 10 The sky **nods** to him.

The leaves **float** down like small ships

On the blue **surface**

Which is the sky.

He is not always sad:

- 15 He smiles to see the ships go down

And the little children

Playing on the river.



GLOSSARY

bends	moves your body or part of your body so that it is not straight
moans	makes a low sound, especially because they are hurt
sorrow	being very sad
weight	how heavy someone or something is
passing	going from one place to another
nods	moves your head up and down
float	stay on the top of water
surface	the top part of something

2 Read the poem again and answer the questions.

1 Why do you think the bridge *moans* and *cries*?

.....
.....

2 Why do you think the sky *nods*?

.....
.....

3 Why don't people hear the bridge moaning and crying?

.....
.....

4 Which two things in the poem are blue?

.....
.....

5 When is the bridge happy?

.....
.....

VOCABULARY

3 Put the words in order.

Example: bridge / the / old / sad / was / very

The old bridge was very sad.

1 see / I / in / sorrow / face / her

.....
.....

2 floating / on / lake / the / the / leaves / are

.....
.....

3 is / heavy / your / weight / bag / very / a

.....
.....

4 park / the / passing / bus / now / is / the

.....
.....

4 Choose the correct word A, B or C to complete the sentences.

1 The of the river is blue.

A weight B boat C surface

2 My house is near the place where the road
.....

A bends B floats C drives

3 He always at me and says
'hello'.

A passes B watches C nods

4 She's because she hurt her leg
playing football.

A holding B moaning C winning

WRITING

5 What can you see in a town or city? Look at the list of places below. Write a sentence for each place about what you can see people doing there.

Example: bridge

People and cars are crossing the bridge.

1 market

.....

2 school

.....

3 park

.....

4 sports centre

.....

5 museum

.....

6 cinema

.....

SPEAKING

6 Work with another student. Together, draw a picture of the bridge in the poem. First, talk about your ideas of what the bridge looks like. How big and long is it? What colour is it? What can you see in the picture? People? Cars? Bikes? What is happening near the river?