



## THE SHED

by Frank Flynn

### SUMMARY

The poem "The Shed" written by Frank Flynn focuses on the shed that is situated at the bottom of the speaker's garden. The speaker wishes to visit and venture inside the shed but he is not prepared to go inside anytime soon. It can be concluded from the poem that the speaker is both curious and scared of the shed.

### Stanzawise Explanation

#### Stanza 1

There's a shed at the bottom of our garden  
With a spider's web hanging across the door,  
The hinges are rusty and creak in the wind.  
When I'm in bed I lie and I listen,  
I'll open that door one day.

**Explanation:** The poem begins with the speaker talking about a shed that is located at the end of the garden. A spider web could be found hanging on the door of the shed. Moreover, the joints of the door are rusted and it produces a creaking sound when the wind blows. The speaker would hear the sound when he/she is lying in the bed. As he/she hears the sound, he/she wishes to open the door one day. The above lines focus on the fact that the shed is not used frequently.

#### Stanza 2

There's a dusty old window around at the side  
With three cracked panes of glass,  
I often think there's someone staring at me  
Each time that I pass,  
I'll peep through that window one day.

**Explanation:** In this stanza, the speaker elaborates on the other parts of the shed. The shed has an old and dirty window at the side. It is also damaged with three cracked panes of glass. Whenever the speaker crosses the shed, he/she feels that someone is staring at him/her. He/she says that he/she would one day look through that window.

The last line of the stanza denotes that the speaker is curious about what lies inside the shed and if someone really lives there. In the first stanza, the speaker wanted to "open" the door of the shed. However, in the second stanza, the resolution of the speaker seems to have weakened as he only intends to "peep" through the window.

### Stanza 3

My brother says there's a ghost in the shed  
Who hides under the rotten floorboards,  
And if I ever dare to set foot inside  
He'll jump out and chop off my head,  
But I'll take a peek one day.

**Explanation:** The speaker's brother scares the speaker by telling him/her that a ghost lives in the shed. It stayed hidden under the spoiled wooden floors of the shed. He/she warns the speaker that if he/she gathers enough courage to enter the shed one day, the ghost would jump out of its hiding place and cut his/her head. Despite the warnings from his/her brother, the speaker insists on taking a quick look inside the shed one day.

Here, the ghost story seems to have affected the speaker and his/her only wish now is to take a peek inside the shed rather than open the door or peep through the window.

### Stanza 4

I know that there isn't really a ghost,  
My brother tells lies to keep the shed for his den;  
There isn't anyone staring or making strange noises  
And the spider has been gone from his web  
since I don't know when,  
I'll go into that shed one day soon,  
But not just yet...

### Explanation

The speaker says that there is no ghost in the shed and his/her brother cooked up the story to keep him/her out of the shed. From the speaker's view, his/her brother wants to use the shed as his own hiding place. Then, the speaker proceeds to comfort himself/herself by saying that no one was staring at him/her nor making strange noises. The speaker describes how the spider from the web on the door has

disappeared and he/she doesn't know when this happened. The poem ends with the speaker repeating his/her wish to enter the shed one day.

The last two lines of the poem imply that the speaker is hesitant to go inside the shed but he/she is certain that he/she would visit the shed one day.

## Word - Meaning

Word	Meaning
Shed	a small covered space usually used for storage or shelter
Web	spider's web
Hinges	a joint
Creak	harsh, high-pitched sound cracked broken
Panes	a sheet of glass
Staring	to look fixedly
Peep	peek/see
Rotten	in a state of decay
Peek	to see quickly
Den	a place to hide