

## The summer is over- and I don't complain

Read the title of the poem and predict, what is the poem about?

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It was the month of June; the school year was nearly over;  
We were so excited, our friends wondered if we're sober.  
We were happy to forget the assignments & the test  
Lay down the books and get some rest.

No one could know that everything will be hot -  
And not only because of the weather;  
Nobody could imagine,  
That we would look forward to the first day of September.

It is not that we like school so much  
We don't like the old gray school building as such  
But who are we to complain?  
Many others will never see their old school buildings again.

My friend didn't go for the vacation she planned so much -  
Instead, she stayed at home, watched TV and tried to keep in touch.  
But who is she to complain?  
Many others will never see their homes again.

My father promised to go on a cycling trip with me  
But suddenly, he was drafted to the army.  
He came back only a week ago  
And when I asked about the trip, he said: No!  
Some people will never see their loved ones again  
I know that this is not a time to complain.

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:: excited – נרגש      ::
:: sober - פיכה      ::
:: lay down - להניח   ::
:: complain – להתלונן ::
:: drafted - גויס     ::
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Who speaks in the poem (=the persona)?

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Who are the other characters in the poem?

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Why shouldn't the people complain?

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What is the poem about? How do you know it?

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What were your plans for summer 2006?

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Did you manage to do all of them? If not, specify what you didn't do and explain why you changed your plans.

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Read the last stanza of the poem and find out how the persona feels at the end of summer 2007:

Where are we now?

Only two months passed,  
The vacation is over and we're starting a new year  
June was only two months ago,  
But it doesn't seem near.  
It's the end of August  
We grew up, some got tanned and others grew taller  
But we all grew much older!

Explain what does the poet mean by "we grew much older"?

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How do you feel?

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