

NEW BEGINNINGS | By Tony Walsh | Longfella |
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Welcome to your new school!
Welcome to your future.
New beginnings here, and new rules.
New classrooms, new computers.

New timetables, new faces here.
New corridors, new signs.
But some things change, some stay the same
And some truths last all time.

You'll take out what you put in.
You'll reap just what you sew.
So face the tests and do your best,
Work hard, play hard and grow.

And play a full and active part
In school and its community.
Be pleased to say "I seized the day."
"I used this opportunity."

Remember that you're different.
There's no-one quite like you.
But make good friends, the one's who'll lend
A hand to get you through.

And so always keep on learning;
There's always more to know.
It may sound strange, but you can always change.
It's never too late to grow.

And so don't let anybody
Try and sneer and hold you back.
Your history is not your future!
So don't ever feel like that.

Because our town has a history
Of producing boys and girls
Who, from humble roots, pull up their boots
And go on to change the world!

And so people just like you and me
Can do very special things!
Aim higher! Be high-flyers!
And be bold, unfold your wings!

And so gain an education;
Learn skills, gain facts and knowledge.
And then take the inspiration
Through to jobs, careers and college.

Questions:

- 1) The poem is being written for a child starting a new school. The person reading the poem is trying to tell them it will be OK. What kind of person do you think is talking to the child?
- 2) You will soon be starting in a new class. Write down something new about Year 5 that you are looking forward to.
- 3) Write down something new about Year 5 that you **aren't** looking forward to.
- 4) Write down something about Year 5 that you think will be the same as Year 4.
- 5) In the third verse, the child is being told to make a real effort. Find a phrase in this verse that means "make an effort."

- 6) The fifth verse explains that people are different but help each other. Think of a friend of yours who is like this and explain why they are different from you and something they've done that helped you.
- 7) In the sixth verse the child is being told how good it is to do new things. What new things would you like to do in Year 5?
- 8) In verse 8, the child hears about the people from their town who've gone on to do great things. Which of these famous people from **your** city have you heard of?
<https://www.thefamouspeople.com/brighton-1392.php>
- 9) Why do you think the poem tells the child to "unfold your wings"?
- 10) What do you most want from Year 5?