

Best Friends:

Adrian Henri

It's Susan I talk to not Tracy,
Before that I sat next to Jane;
I used to be friends with Linda
But these days she's a pain.

Natasha's all right in small doses,
I meet Mandy sometimes in town;
I'm jealous of Annabel's pony
And I don't like Nicola's frown.

I used to go skating with Catherine,
Before that I went there with Ruth;
And Kate's so much better at trampoline:
She's a showoff, to tell you the truth.

I think that I'm going off Susan,
She borrowed my comb yesterday;
I think I might sit next to Tracy,
She's my nearly best friend: She's O.K.

Activities:

- 1: Why is this poem called Best Friend?
- 2: What makes someone a best friend? What evidence is there in the poem that suggests that Tracy is the narrator's best friend?
3. What do you think might have happened between the narrator and Tracy to make her say 'it's Susan I talk to, not Tracy' in the first line?
- 4: What do you think the poem says about the fickle nature of some childhood friendships? (fickle means – changing or inconsistent).
5. What do you think a 'nearly best friend' means?
- 6: Write a similar poem about your friends using the structure and rhyming scheme or rewrite the poem changing the names / the rhyming words, the nouns and verbs.