

## Even Though I Am Old

Even though I am old, please remember that  
This body, this face, this mind, this soul,  
Was once just like yours.  
Like the **Matryoshka dolls**,  
Inside me are my three other selves,  
Hidden, but not forgotten.

I have **acquired** a lifetime of experience,  
An **encyclopaedic** library that is ready for you to explore.  
But in this library you are not hushed;  
You are encouraged to open those books:  
Chat, laugh, cry!  
You have questions; I have answers.  
You only need to ask.

Childhood is a mixture of magic and mystery.  
Imaginations **ignited**.  
The world you live in  
Becomes one of your own creation.  
In between learning the rules at school and home,  
You and your friends will be your own rule makers:  
No land **unconquerable**,  
No beast unbeatable,  
No superpower unclaimed.  
You live in a **technicoloured** world that only children can see.  
Adults are so **pre-occupied** by their grown-up lives,  
That they are completely **unsuspecting**  
Of the **perils** and **mischief** that surrounds them.

If you are fortunate in these early years,  
The only pain you'll **encounter** is  
The sting of a cut knee, the cutting comment of a friend,  
Or the disappointment of hearing the answer 'no'.

Days are endless,  
Years go on forever.  
Don't be in such a rush to make them pass by.  
**Relish** them.  
Enjoy not having the responsibilities of the world in your hands.  
You have all that to come.

Teenage years will move you away from the imagined world.  
Narnia will no longer be your playground;  
That door is now firmly shut.  
Life is now about creating a real world  
And sculpting yourself into a new identity.

Like a caterpillar **metamorphosing** into a beautiful butterfly,  
You will push at the boundaries of your **chrysalis**,  
**Flexing** your muscles and clothing yourself in colours that mark who you are.  
You are so desperate to fly and see what the world has to offer,  
But although you are fully formed, your wings are not yet ready.  
You will have to wait for your freedom.

But don't be in such a hurry.  
Before you rush to explore the world,  
Make sure you have all the tools you need  
To make your adventure safer, easier and more exciting.

As you walk through the doors into **adulthood**,  
You are given your licence to make whatever choices you choose.  
Your path is one which you will carve out for yourself,  
And the possibilities are **numerous**.

But remember this:  
With every choice made, comes responsibility,  
So choose wisely.  
Be quick to **restrain** that child-like excitement  
And remain on the right path.

But if ever you fall, or stray into unknown or dangerous territory,  
Please remember this:  
You are not too old to be picked up,  
You are not too old to be comforted,  
And you are not too old to ask for advice.

So even though I am old,  
Although my eyes may no longer see you perfectly,  
Or my ears hear you properly,  
I am still that child, that teenager, that adult that you are.  
I have experienced it all, either for myself or **vicariously** through others.  
So whatever life throws at you,  
Both happy and sad,  
If you want to share it with someone who knows,  
Someone who can offer guidance or simply listen,  
Then remember that I am still here.

By Malou Evans

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Even Though I Am Old – Y5m/Y6s (Black) – Text

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## Even Though I Am Old – Follow-Up Work

Find and copy 3 examples of alliteration.

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In the fifth stanza, the poet says: 'Days are endless, Years go on forever. Don't be in such a rush to make them pass by. Relish them.' Why did the poet choose to use the word 'relish' rather than 'enjoy'?

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In the line: 'But in this library you are not hushed', what is the library a metaphor for? You must justify your answer.

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What do you think is meant by the line: 'Adults are so pre-occupied by their grown-up lives, That they are completely unsuspecting, Of the perils and mischief that surrounds them.'?

What does the poet mean by the line: 'Like the Matryoshka dolls, Inside me are my three other selves, Hidden, but not forgotten.'?

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Look at the seventh stanza. What do you think is meant by the line: 'clothing yourself in colours that mark who you are'?

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Describe in your own words the overall meaning/message of this poem. Use evidence from the text to support your ideas.

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What impact did the poet want to achieve by using the phrase 'technicoloured world' to describe childhood?

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In the stanza about the teenage years, the poet says: 'Narnia will no longer be your playground; That door is now firmly shut.' Which novel is the poet referencing here and why have they used this to describe moving away from childhood?

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In the simile: 'Like a caterpillar metamorphosing into a beautiful butterfly, You will push at the boundaries of your chrysalis' for what is the chrysalis a metaphor?

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The poet uses a wide range of interesting language in this poem. Find a word or phrase which particularly interest you and explain why you chose it.

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Write the meaning of each of these words.

Matryoshka dolls \_\_\_\_\_

acquired \_\_\_\_\_

encyclopaedic \_\_\_\_\_

ignited \_\_\_\_\_

unconquerable \_\_\_\_\_

technicoloured \_\_\_\_\_

pre-occupied \_\_\_\_\_

unsuspecting \_\_\_\_\_

perils \_\_\_\_\_

mischief \_\_\_\_\_

encountered \_\_\_\_\_

relish \_\_\_\_\_

metamorphosing \_\_\_\_\_

chrysalis \_\_\_\_\_

flexing \_\_\_\_\_

adulthood \_\_\_\_\_

numerous \_\_\_\_\_

restrain \_\_\_\_\_

vicariously \_\_\_\_\_

**Task A**

Complete the table using the suffixes provided.

-ed	-ing
unsuspected	
flexed	
	encountering
acquired	
	pre-occupying
ignited	

**Task B**

Similes are comparisons where something is 'like' or 'as' something else. Use the following words to create your own similes.

1) ignited

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2) technicoloured

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3) relish

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4) flexing

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**Task C**

Unscramble the following words and rewrite them on the lines.

syiaricvoul \_\_\_\_\_ mmoospateihrgn \_\_\_\_\_

ueeecnntdro \_\_\_\_\_ iiefmshc \_\_\_\_\_

## Even Though I Am Old– SPAG

### Task A

Circle the correct homophone to fill in the blank.

- 1) You live in a technicoloured world that only children can \_\_\_\_\_. (see/sea)
- 2) If you \_\_\_\_\_ fortunate in these early years. (our/are)
- 3) The only \_\_\_\_\_ you'll encounter. (pane/pain)
- 4) Or the disappointment of hearing the answer '\_\_\_\_\_'. (know/no)
- 5) Narnia will no longer be \_\_\_\_\_ playground. (your/you're)
- 6) And sculpting yourself into a \_\_\_\_\_ identity. (new/knew)
- 7) Flexing your \_\_\_\_\_ and clothing yourself in colours. (mussels/muscles)
- 8) You will have to \_\_\_\_\_ for your freedom. (wait/weight)
- 9) Make \_\_\_\_\_ you have all the tools you need. (shore/sure)
- 10) Your path is one \_\_\_\_\_ you will carve out for yourself. (witch/which)
- 11) And remain on the \_\_\_\_\_ path. (write/rite/right)
- 12) You are not \_\_\_\_\_ old to be picked up. (two/too/to)
- 13) Or my ears \_\_\_\_\_ you properly. (here/hear)
- 14) I have experienced it all, either for myself or vicariously \_\_\_\_\_ others. (through/threw)

### Task B

Underline the verbs/auxillary verbs in the following stanza.

Childhood is a mixture of magic and mystery.  
Imaginations ignited.  
The world you live in  
Becomes one of your own creation.  
In between learning the rules at school and home,  
You and your friends will be your own rule makers:  
No land unconquerable,  
No beast unbeatable,  
No superpower unclaimed.  
You live in a technicoloured world that only children can see.  
Adults are so pre-occupied by their grown-up lives,  
That they are completely unsuspecting  
Of the perils and mischief that surrounds them.

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Even Though I Am Old – Y5m/Y6s (Black) – SPAG



## Even Though I Am Old – Oral Teacher Questions

Find and copy 3 examples of alliteration. **Mixture of magic and mystery, imaginations ignited, beautiful butterfly, fully formed.**

In the fifth stanza, the poet says: 'Days are endless, Years go on forever. Don't be in such a rush to make them pass by. Relish them.' Why did the poet choose to use the word 'relish' rather than 'enjoy'? **Relish means to enjoy but also to appreciate the moment and cherish it.**

In the line: 'But in this library you are not hushed', what is the library a metaphor for? You must justify your answer. **Answers along the lines of: The library is a metaphor for the old person's memories. I think this because in the previous lines the person says that they have an 'encyclopaedic library' referring to their experiences and memories.**

What do you think is meant by the line: 'Adults are so pre-occupied by their grown-up lives, That they are completely unsuspecting, Of the perils and mischief that surrounds them.'? **Answers along the lines of: They are unaware of the imaginations and lives of the children as they are distracted by grown-up issues.**

What does the poet mean by the line: 'Like the Matryoshka dolls, Inside me are my three other selves, Hidden, but not forgotten.'? **Matryoshka dolls are Russian nesting dolls which fit one inside the other. The poet's other selves are the child, the teenager and the adult which are still inside. They are hidden but not forgotten as the person still has the memories from those years inside them.**

Look at the seventh stanza. What do you think is meant by the line: 'clothing yourself in colours that mark who you are'? **Personal response; must be justified. One possible answer is that the colours refer to the markings on the butterfly and as teenagers we experiment with our image to define ourselves.**

Describe in your own words the overall meaning/message of this poem. Use evidence from the text to support your ideas. **Various responses: an older person giving advice to younger people.**

What impact did the poet want to achieve by using the phrase 'technicoloured world' to describe childhood? **Answers along the lines of: The poet wanted to get the point across that childhood is an exciting time so using the word 'technicoloured' is a good choice because it means vibrant, full of life and excitement.**

In the stanza about the teenage years, the poet says: 'Narnia will no longer be your playground; That door is now firmly shut.' Which novel is the poet referencing here and why have they used this to describe moving away from childhood? **Answers should identify that the poet is referencing 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe'. The children accessed Narnia through the wardrobe, so to say that they can no longer play in Narnia and that the door is firmly shut indicates it is time to grow up.**

In the simile: 'Like a caterpillar metamorphosing into a beautiful butterfly, You will push at the boundaries of your chrysalis' for what is the chrysalis a metaphor? **Personal response; must be justified. Possible answer is: the boundaries of your chrysalis are the boundaries of your family and home and as you grow older you start to push and test these boundaries.**

The poet uses a wide range of interesting language in this poem. Find a word or phrase which particularly interest you and explain why you chose it. **Personal response; must be justified.**

Write the meaning of each of these words.

Matryoshka dolls – Russian nesting dolls; they decrease in size and sit one inside the other

acquired – come to have as a result of one's behaviour or activities

encyclopaedic – comprehensive in terms of information

ignited – arouse or inflame

unconquerable – not able to be conquered

technicoloured – vivid colour

pre-occupied – to be focused on something to the exclusion of other thoughts

unsuspecting – not aware of the presence; feeling no suspicion

perils – serious and immediate danger

mischief – playful misbehaviour, especially on the part of children

encountered – unexpectedly be faced with or experience something difficult

relish – greatly enjoy and appreciate the moment

metamorphosing – change completely in form or nature

chrysalis – the hard outer case when a caterpillar is changing into a butterfly

flexing – contracting and tensing

adulthood – the state of being fully grown or mature

numerous – great in number

restrain – keep under control

vicariously – experienced in the imagination through the feelings or actions of another person

**Task A**

Complete the table using the suffixes provided.

-ed	-ing
unsuspected	unsuspecting
flexed	flexing
encountered	encountering
acquired	acquiring
pre-occupied	pre-occupying
ignited	igniting

**Task B**

Similes are comparisons where something is 'like' or 'as' something else. Use the following words to create your own similes.

Similes must use the words appropriately to give a good comparison. The simile must use 'like' or 'as'.

1) ignited

2) technicoloured

3) relish

4) flexing

**Task C**

Unscramble the following words and rewrite them on the lines.

syiaricvoul    vicariously

mnoospateihrgn    metamorphosing

ueeecnntdro    encountered

iielfmshc    mischief

## Even Though I Am Old– SPAG

### Task A

Circle the correct homophone to fill in the blank.

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- 2) If you \_\_\_\_\_ fortunate in these early years. (our/are)
- 3) The only \_\_\_\_\_ you'll encounter. (pane/pain)
- 4) Or the disappointment of hearing the answer '\_\_\_\_\_'. (know/no)
- 5) Narnia will no longer be \_\_\_\_\_ playground. (your/you're)
- 6) And sculpting yourself into a \_\_\_\_\_ identity. (new/knew)
- 7) Flexing your \_\_\_\_\_ and clothing yourself in colours. (mussels/muscles)
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- 12) You are not \_\_\_\_\_ old to be picked up. (two/too/to)
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### Task B

Underline the verbs/auxillary verbs in the following stanza.

Childhood **is** a mixture of magic and mystery.  
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The world you **live** in  
**Becomes** one of your own creation.  
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That they **are** completely unsuspecting  
Of the perils and mischief that **surrounds** them.

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Even Though I Am Old – Y5m/Y6s (Black) – SPAG **ANSWERS**

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