

- 1 a In class, do a brainstorming in which you collect at least ten types of outdoor leisure activities.
b Divide the class into groups. Half the groups look at the list of activities and try to identify ways in which each activity is good for the environment or people's relationship with nature; the other groups try to show how each activity is harmful.
c Compare the results of the groups in class and discuss.
- 2 Make a list or mind map of words and phrases to do with 'Nature and the Environment'. Continue to add to your list or mind map as you work your way through this chapter.

► Mind Mapping (p. 222)

Now read the poem 'If the Earth' below
and then do the tasks on the right-hand page.

If the Earth

were only a few feet in diameter,
floating a few feet above a field somewhere,
people would come from everywhere to marvel
at it. People would walk around it, marvelling at its
big pools of water, its little pools and the water flowing
between. People would marvel at the bumps on it, and the
holes in it. They would marvel at the very thin layer of gas
surrounding it and the water suspended in the gas. The people
would marvel at all the creatures walking around the surface
of the ball and at the creatures in the water. The people would
declare it as sacred because it was the only one, and they would
protect it so that it would not be hurt. The ball would be the
greatest wonder known, and people would come to pray to
it, to be healed, to gain knowledge, to know beauty and to
wonder how it could be. People would love it, and defend
it with their lives because they would somehow
know that their lives could be nothing
without it. If the Earth were only a few
feet in diameter.

Joe Miller, 1975

NATURE



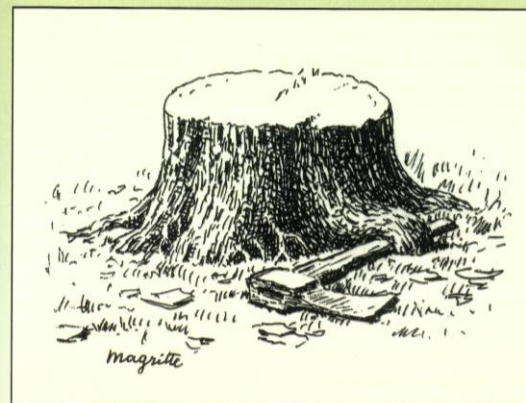
- 3 Why do you think Miller chose to present his poem as a 'shape poem'?
- 4 a Identify the themes in the poem. Say which lines deal with each theme.
b Evaluate the main image of 'If the Earth' as a means of getting Miller's point across.
- 5 Some might say that 'If the Earth' is not really a poem at all. Give your opinion, stating your reasons for your view.
- 6 a Now look at the picture (1962) by René Magritte below. Describe the picture in as much detail as you can.

► Glossary: Shape Poem (p. 256)

► Glossary: Imagery (p. 268)

► Reading Poetry (p. 241),
Glossary: Poetry (p. 256)

► Working with Pictures (p. 223)



Useful words and phrases

tree stump • wood chips • root • axe • chop sth. down

- b Give the picture a title. Exchange titles with a partner and explain why you chose your title. Then say whose title you think fits the picture better.
- 7 Compare 'If the Earth' and the picture by Magritte. Discuss what they have in common and in what ways they are different.

