

Home**

by Mr. Harrison

What if, whenever we left for work each morning,
Our dogs slyly picked up the phone
And dialed their canine friends,
Inviting them over for a daily party and chase game
That always happened at our house?

And what if, as soon as we were gone,
The houseplants used their green tendrils
To flick on the stereo so that loud rock music
Vibrated the house while the plants swayed
To and fro in rhythm at our house?

And what if, when the house was empty of us,
The milk and cheese and chocolate kicked open
The refrigerator door, cooling down the kitchen enough
So that they could laugh and sing as the dogs ran by
And the plants danced at our house?

And what if the shutters knew
To watch for our afternoon return
And, as soon as our cars cleared the corner,
They signaled everything to stop their shenanigans
And behave like normal at our house?

But, most importantly, what if
I had never met you and married you
And found the perfect place to share our
Lives and love and dogs and dreams?
Would I still be able to call where I live my home?

**Encourage your students to create an original title for this poem that is not *What If*.

I found that coming up with my title first helped me keep all my stanzas about the same topic, instead of them feeling like random ideas coming together in a poem. If your students come up with a topic—like spring or candy or imagination—before using the planning template, they might find more success in writing stanzas that adhere to a theme.