

Parcel



Since we came here
Holland's become a parcel,
Wrapped in sweet-smelling
Brown paper,
Sent over each Christmas by the family;
Each year they stuff it with presents
Bought at the *Kermis**
And a Dutch calendar.
So next year will be filled
With pictures of windmills;
Of narrow, cobbled streets
And neat brick houses
Where you can see straight inside;
Of snow in December.
I've written to say that
The windmills here are spindly;
That Christmas day is dozy with sunshine;
That the streets are wide and tarseal sticky;
That the houses I see from my window
Are painted weatherboard.

Holland's a parcel,
Wrapped in sweet-smelling
Brown paper.
On Christmas day
We'll unwrap Holland.

*A Kermis is a fair or carnival.

*Poem by Bill Nagelkerke.
"Settling In" from Choices series,
Learning Media Limited, 1997*

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This task is about finding information and making inferences from a text.

Read the poem to help answer the questions.

- a) The poem tells how Holland is different from the place where the speaker in the poem now lives. Write down five of these differences.

- i) _____
ii) _____
iii) _____
iv) _____
v) _____

- b) Which word **best** describes how the speaker in this poem is feeling?

- (A) Sad
(B) Lonely
(C) Homesick
(D) Rejected

- c) What does the line, "The streets are wide and tarseal sticky", tell you about December weather in New Zealand?

- d) How does the way the poem ends connect with the way the poem begins?

- e) In what way has Holland "become a parcel"?

