"That's right," Mrs. Bufkins said. "If you ever got out of that armchair in front of the TV set you'd know who we are"...

Art Buchwald

Notes:

Blackout –a period of complete darkness (when all the electric lights go out due to the power failure).

Pre-reading task

You are going to read two poems and a piece of prose about three families. Look through the texts and say:

1. What problems of modern family life they describe.
2. Give synonyms for the word TV. (the set, the box, the telly, TV set, television)
3. Tell me how much time you usually spend watching TV. Do you like watching the telly?
4. Check the following words in your dictionary:

Spouse (n) tremendous (adj)

To go out (v)

**Work on the poem Teevee**

В первый раз стихотворение лучше прочитать учителю так, чтобы учащиеся получили удовольствие и оценили ее юмор.

**Comprehension check:**

1. Read the poem again and say if the following sentences are true or false:
   a. They spoke a lot every day.
   b. They didn't find out that they were spouses.
   c. They saw each other for the first time.
   d. They didn't recognize each other.
2. Tell what happened to Mr. and Mrs. Spouse one day. Use the following expressions: watch TV, to be broken, the same, to come right about, to find out.
3. What do you think?
   a. What kind of poem is it? (wit, satire, parody)
   b. Did you enjoy it?

If the pupils enjoyed it they may learn it by heart.

**Work on the text "The TV Blackout"**

Read the text and tell why there was panic in the Bufkins's house.

**Comprehension check:**

1. Which do you think is true:

In the Bufkins's house panic set in

a. all electricity in the city was cut off.

because b. a bomb was dropped on New York city.

c. there was a great traffic accident.