

**Activity 1: Listening and Speaking:**

Listen to a poem: *What If Instead of Being Behind These Kids Are Ahead?*

What if, instead of falling behind, our kids are advanced?

What if they have more empathy, they enjoy family connection, they can be more creative and entertain themselves, they love to read and express themselves in writing?

What if they enjoy the simple things, like their own backyards and balconies, sitting near a window in the quiet?

What if they notice the birds and the dates and different flowers emerge and the calming renewal of a gentle rain shower?

What if our kids are the ones to learn to cook, organise their space, do their laundry and help keep a well-run home?

What if they learn to stretch a dollar and live with less?

What if they learn to plan shopping trips and make meals at home?

What if they learn the difference between want and need?

What if they learn the value of eating together as a family and finding the good in sharing the small delights of every day?

What if they are the ones who place great value on our teachers and educational professionals, librarians, public servants and the previously invisible essential workers like truck drivers, grocers, cashiers, healthcare workers... just to name a few who are taking care of us right now while we are sheltered in place?

What if among these children a great leader emerges who had the benefit of a slower pace and simpler life to truly learn what really matters in life?

What if they are ahead? By Jaime Ragsdale

Using the template below, organize your thoughts about the poem. What is the poem about?

---

---

---

---

---

Who is narrating the poem?

---

---

How does the poem make you feel?

---

---

---

---

---

Do you agree with the poet? Why or Why not?

---

---

---

---

Why do you think the poet decided to write this poem?

---

---

---

---