When This is Over

**Directions:** Over the course of three days, you are expected to read the poem “When This is Over” and complete the activities below.

**Day 1:** Read the poem, “When This is Over”. After reading the entire poem go back and answer the questions that are written on the right side (margin) of your paper. Your answers should be written in complete sentences.

### When This is Over

1. Who is the speaker in this poem? How do you know?

   *When this is over*
   
   I am going to use a whole roll of toilet paper every time.  
   *(stanza 1)*

2. Why is the title an important part of this poem?

   Well, no.
   
   That would be a crime against the environment and besides
   
   it would block the toilet.  
   *(stanza 2)*

3. How does the poet create imagery in stanza 5? Include words/phrases from the poem to support your answer.

   But I am
   
   going to get an ice cream
   from that place with the bright red roof
   where you stand in a long line
   with your neighbors and strangers
   then order at the window
   then sit at a picnic table
   that you might share with neighbors
   or strangers
   while you eat your butterscotch sundae
   or vanilla-chocolate twist
   or strawberry with rainbow jimmies
   n a dish.  
   *(stanza 3)*

4. What is the tone/emotion of this poem? What words/phrases help contribute to the tone you selected?

   I am not going to cough on people
   or sneeze on people.
   I’ll still use my elbow
   because
   obviously.  
   *(stanza 4)*

   But I am
   
   going to hug my friends so tightly
   that if we were made of clay
   we would squish together and become one person
   with a weird lumpy body that gets very narrow
   in the area where my arms are wrapped.  
   *(stanza 5)*

   I am not going to stop there.  
   *(stanza 6)*
and my neighbors
and the mail carrier
and the vet
and Mrs. Addison at the doctor’s office
who is always so kind
and, if I can convince him to come out from behind the window,
the guy who takes my order
for strawberry with rainbow jimmies
in a dish. (stanza 7)

What advice do you think the poet is trying to give to anyone who reads this poem? Include words/phrases from the poem to support your answer.

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