



# The Waiting Kit

Ladies and gentlemen, you all hate waiting,  
so we present your personal waiting kit :  
vouchers for tea or coffee, hot or cold snacks,  
and drinks from the bar, served to you where you sit ;

free cigarettes (for use in the smokers' annexe),  
complimentary chocolates, personal screens  
and headsets, with a range of music and videos  
or computer games. NB : for under-18s

and mothers-to-be, alcohol and tobacco  
are not on offer ; also we can't provide  
chocolates in dental surgeries—the dentists  
ban them : instead fresh fruit will be supplied.

So just relax : enjoy. But what did you say ?  
We must be joking ? Yes, that's true - you've guessed :  
The goodies weren't for real : but in the ways  
that really matter truly we'll do our best.

*Fleur Adcock*

*This poem was commissioned by the poet David Hart on behalf of the Arts Council. It is one of a collection of fifty poems by different UK poets - each on the subject of waiting. The poems are for display in waiting rooms.*