

3.4 Leisure

WARMING UP

1. Discuss in groups and share with one another.

- (1) The daily routine of your mother and father on working days
- (2) How your family relaxes on weekends
- (3) When you go for a picnic, what and how do you enjoy?
- (4) Do you spend time admiring and thinking over the beauties of nature ? Elaborate your response.

2. When a poet / writer attempts to describe something in words, so that it appeals to our five senses (sight, smell, hearing, touch, taste) he / she has used a device called Imagery.

For example : ‘a host of golden daffodils’.

‘to a chasm, deep and vast and wide’.

Go through other poems in your textbook or other books and find out lines that contain Imagery. Write them down along with the name of the poem and line / stanza number.

3. Prepare an Acrostic from the word ‘Leisure’. The words should be related to what one likes to do in free time.

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Reading stories

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Leisure

● **care** : (here) worries, stress

● **boughs** : branches of a tree

◆ *What does the poet want us to stare at and gain from it?*

● **beauty** : a beautiful young girl

◆ *List the beautiful things in nature that we overlook.*

What is this life if, full of **care**,

We have no time to stand and stare?

No time to stand beneath the **boughs**

And stare as long as sheep or cows?

No time to see, when woods we pass

Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass?

No time to see, in broad daylight,

Streams full of stars, like skies at night?

No time to turn at **Beauty's** glance,

And watch her feet, how they can dance?

No time to wait till her mouth can

Enrich that smile her eyes began?

A poor life this if, full of care,

We have no time to stand and stare.

– William Henry Davies

ENGLISH WORKSHOP

1. Say where

- (a) do the cows and sheep stand?
- (b) do squirrels store their food?
- (c) do stars shine in the daytime?
- (d) does Beauty's smile begin?

2. Think and answer in your own words.

- (a) What could have inspired the poet to compose this poem? Do you think it relates to our present day life? Defend your choice.
- (b) Which line proves that in our busy lives we do not even have a fraction of a second to enjoy nature's beauty?

- (c) 'Beauty' in stanza 5 to 6 can refer to a beautiful maiden as well as nature itself. Explain when and how nature 'dances' and also 'smiles'.
- (d) Why does the poet call our life 'poor'?

3. You have learnt that when a human attribute is given to anything that is not a human being or it is spoken of as a person, the Figure of Speech used is called 'Personification'.

- (a) Pick out two examples of Personification from the poem.
- (b) Pick out from the poem, two examples of each of the following Figures of Speech.
- (1) Alliteration (2) Simile (3) Metaphor
- (c) The poet opens his poem with a question. Is the question asked to receive some answer? No. It is a question used to emphasize and stress upon the fact that modern man has no time to enrich his life from nature.

Such a device used by poets falls under the Figure of Speech called '**Interrogation**' or '**Rhetorical Question**'. Refer to the poem 'The Pilgrim' and find examples of Interrogation.

4. Say where the images from nature given in the poem exist.

AIR / LAND / WATER

- (a) beneath the boughs
- (b) squirrel hide nuts in grass
- (c) streams in daytime
- (d) stars / skies at night

5. Make a paraphrase of the poem 'Leisure' in your own simple words. Write it down in your notebook.

