

Home and Love

A. Lead-in :

We love our home because we live here and rise up in life. The home attracts us. Our parents and family members love us and nurture us. We grow in the warmth, comfort and care of the family.

Read the poem given below and discuss with your partner about your home.

Now, listen to the teacher reading the poem aloud. As you listen, try to remember a few words / expressions from the poem.

B. The Text :

Just Home and Love ! the words are small

Four little letters unto each;

And yet you will not find in all

The wide and gracious range of speech

Two more so tenderly complete :

When angels talk in Heaven above,

I'm sure they have no words more sweet

Than Home and Love.

Just Home and Love! It's hard to guess

Which of the two were best to gain;

Home without Love is bitterness;

Love without Home is often pain.

No! each alone will seldom do;
 Somehow they travel hand and glove :
 If you win one you must have two,
 Both Home and Love.
 And if you've both, well then I'm sure
 You ought to sing the whole day long;
 It doesn't matter if you're poor
 With these to make divine your song.
 And so I praisefully repeat,
 When angels talk in Heaven above,
 There are no words more simply sweet
 Than Home and Love.

ROBERT WILLIAM SERVICE

C. About the poet :

Robert William Service (1874-1958) was born in Preston, England. During his life-time he published four collections of poetry.

D. Notes and glossary :

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|----------------|--|
| gracious | : pleasant and sweet. |
| tenderly | : gentle and caring feeling. |
| bitterness | : feels angry and resentful. |
| seldom | : hardly / rarely. |
| hand and glove | : close to each other. |
| divine | : result from the action of God or goddess. |
| angels | : one of the spiritual beings that some people believe, live with God in heaven and act as God's messengers. |

E. Let's understand the Poem :

- (i) Which words are important in the first line of the poem ?
- (ii) Which two words are the sweetest, according to the poet ?
- (iii) Do you think that meanings of 'Home' and 'Love' are very wide and gracious ? Discuss.
- (iv) How many times does the poet repeat 'Home and Love' ?
- (v) How does the sweetness of home link up with love ?
- (vi) Love without home is _____.
 - (a) agony
 - (b) suffering
 - (c) pain.
- (vii) Can we separate Home and Love ?
- (viii) When do you sing the whole day long ?
- (ix) When angels talk in Heaven above.... What do they lack ?

F. Let's appreciate the Poem :

- (i) The poet compares home with love. Does he find one better than the other ? Why / not ?
- (ii) What does the line 'The wide and gracious range of speech' convey ?
- (iii) Which ideas do the angels discuss in Heaven ?
- (iv) Why does bitterness arise ?
- (v) When does one have a winning position ?
- (vi) What are the three important words in the last two lines which convey the poet's ideas ?
- (vii) What message does the poet have for those who have both home and love ?

G. Let's do some activities :
Activity - 1

- Read the poem aloud. Then read it silently over and over again and remember the lines.
- Given below are a few lines from the second stanza of the poem. But some words are missing there. Supply the missing words without looking at the stanza.

Home without love is _____.

Love without Home is often _____.

Some how they travel _____.

Activity - 2

Fill in the blanks with suitable words or phrases given below.

- _____ is a place where angels talk ?
- Love can seldom exist without _____ .
- Home and Love are sweet because they contain _____ .
(home, the wide and gracious range of speech)

Activity - 3

Home is more important than love. Do you agree or disagree with the statement ? Form two groups. Select your leader for each group. The first group will give arguments to show that the statement is true. The second group will argue that the statement is false. Cooperate with each other and note down all the useful points that can be made to support your point of view.

H. Let's do some activities :

"A short description "

Use the following words and expressions to describe a happy home :

Sweetness, Parents and relations, happy memories, friends, childhood games and sports, love and affection.

The Character of a Happy Life

A. Lead-in :

Happiness and sorrow are the two faces of our lives. Life becomes pleasant when we are happy. In fact, happiness is the goal of our lives.

When do you feel really happy ?

Let's know the factors which contribute to your happiness. Discuss the following points with your peers.

- You are putting on a lovely dress.
- You are speaking well.
- You are given a lot of money.
- You are offered a sumptuous lunch in a good hotel.
- You meet a filmstar of your choice.
- You are given award for your good work.
- You are praised by others.
- You are helping a poorman.

B. The Text :

The Character of a Happy Life

How happy is he born and taught

That serveth not another's will;

Whose armour is his honest thought,

And simple truth his utmost skill !

Whose passions not his master are;
Whose soul is still prepared for death,
Untied unto the world by care
Of public fame or private breath;
Who envies none that change doth raise;
Nor vice; who never understood
How deepest wounds are given by praise;
Nor rules of state, but rules of good;
Who hath his life from rumours freed;
Whose conscience is his strong retreat;
Whose state can neither flatterers feed;
Nor ruin make oppressors great;
Who God doth late and early pray
More of His grace than gifts to lend;
And entertains the harmless day
With a religious book or friend;
This man is freed from servile band
Of hope to rise or fear to fall;
Lord of himself; through not of lands,
And having nothing, yet hath all.

Sir Henry Wotton

C. About the poet :**Sir Henry Wotton (1568-1639)**

He was born in Kent and educated at Winchester & New College and the Queen's Cottage, Oxford. He was British ambassador to Venice.

'The character of a happy life is one of his best known poems. The characteristics of a happy man is beautifully portrayed in this poem. The poet has brought a sharp sense of contrast between the life of the ambitious man and the happy life of a man who wants to live a gracious life of peaceful virtue.

C. Notes and glossary :

servth (old use) - serves

armour - weapon

honest thought - pure thought

utmost - to the greatest extent

whose passions ... are - who is not a slave of his passions

passions - a very strong feeling about something (love, hate and anger)

untied - unbound, not tied.

public fame - concerned about being famous

private breath - rumour or whisper of the people

envies - the feeling you have when you wish you could have the same quality that others possess.

vice - evil of immoral behaviour, weakness (opposite of virtue)

rules of state - compelling rules of the society

rules of good - rules of goodness leading to the right path

rumour - a piece of information that may not be true

conscious - part of your mind that makes you aware of what you are doing.

retreat - withdraw to a quite or secluded place

flatterer - one who flatters

(flatter means telling somebody looking more attractive or important than they really are because you want to please them)

oppressors - ones who treat others unfairly or cruelly.

entertains - receives with joy, enjoys

religious - relating to religion

servile - the adjective of slave

hath - (old use) has

Lord of himself - master of one's own self freed from any control from outside.

[Listen to the poem as the teacher reads it out again and follow the text. Read the poem silently for five minutes and read the stanzas. As you read find out the answers to the following comprehension questions.]

E. Let's understand the poem.

- (i) Why does the poet tell to forsake passion ?
- (ii) What type of man is he who doesnot like to be controlled by others ?
- (iii) What serves as an armour for a happy man ?
- (iv) What is the utmost skill of a happyman ?
- (v) What idea do you get from the first stanza ? Is it about the value of freedom or about self esteem ? Do you find both of them there ?
- (vi) An upright man is not a slave of his desire. Which line signifies this idea ?
- (vii) Is a happyman affected by the criticism of the people ? How does he react to others ?
- (viii) What are those two things a happyman hates, as viewed by the poet ?
- (ix) By praising a person or flattering a person one causes harm to others. Identify the line which tells us this idea.

- (x) Point out the line that expresses the theme that a happyman is not worried about the rules of the society or government rather he is more concerned about rules of goodness which will lead him to right path.
- (xi) What does the poet say about the happyman in matters of rumour ?
- (xii) What does the happyman do when he retires from a busy life ?
- (xiii) Why does not the poet succeed in flattering him ?
- (xiv) What does the poet speak of the oppressors ?
- (xv) How does a happy man entertain himself ?
- (xvi) What does a happy man beg from God ?
- (xvii) What according to the poet is the servile band of hope ? Who can overcome it ?
- (xviii) In what sense does a man feel that he is wealthy and having every thing ?

F. Let's appreciate the poem :

- (i) What does a happy man consider precious in life ?
- (ii) Give some lines from the text where the fearlessness of the happy man is reflected.
- (iii) What is the 'utmost skill' of a happy man ?
- (iv) What is the soul of the happy man like ?
- (v) Search for popularity and personal desire often blind a man's path and make his life restless. A man seeking happiness should be free from them. Which line gives you this idea ?
- (vi) A happy man remains away from vice. What is his real motive ?
- (vii) Flattery often kills a man. How ?

Does it affect the happy man ?

- (viii) Why is the man always prepared for death ?
- (ix) What is his favourite ways of spending time ?
- (x) Why are the hopes of the happy man not shattered at all in any circumstance ?
- (xi) Can we say that a happy man feels himself a monarch of all he surveys ?

Composition :

Do you like to support any of the ideas conveyed by the poet and why ?

Discuss about them with your friends.

G. Speaking :

Learn correct pronunciation :

born	-	/ bɔ:n /	armour	-	/ a : mə /
utmost	-	/ ʌtməst /	passion	-	/ pæʃən /
prepare	-	/ pripeə /	untied	-	/ ntaɪd /
public	-	/ pʌblik /	breath	-	/ breθ /
raise	-	/ reɪz /	wounds	-	/ wu:nds /
rumour	-	/ ru:mə /	ruin	-	/ ru:ɪn /
flatters	-	/ flaetpə /	early	-	/ 3:/1 /
oppressors	-	/ ɒˈpreəsə /	religion	-	/ rilɪdʒən /
entertains	-	/ ɛntəteɪns /	fear	-	/ fiə(r) /
servile	-	/ sə:vɪl /			

(Take the help of your teacher to develop correct pronunciation practice)

