

## LESSON

7



# WHY ?

### Stage 1.

### Pre-reading

#### Activity 1.

#### Talking about the topic

The teacher asks :

1. Do you think children are different from grown-up people ? In what ways are they different ?

The children should be encouraged to find their own answers to this question.

The teacher can help them by asking 'leading questions' or prompting them.

2. Do you have a younger brother or sister at home ? How old is this child ?
3. Does this child like to ask a lot of questions ?
4. What kind of questions does he/she ask ?
5. Do the people in your family like to answer these questions ? (Or do they get tired of the questions ?)

The teacher now explains :

Small children are very fond of asking questions. You are now going to read a poem about a child who is always asking questions.

#### Activity 2.

#### Listening to the poem

The teacher reads out the poem twice while the children listen. Here is the poem:

## Why ?

I know a curious little girl,  
Who's always asking "Why ?"  
Why this, why that, why then, why now ?  
Why not ? Oh, why, why, why ?



She wants to know why wood should float  
Why lead and marble sink,  
Why the sun shines, and the wind blows  
And why we eat and drink.

She wants to know how clouds are made  
And how they cross the sky,  
Where the sun goes to sleep at night  
And why do flowers die.



Some of these 'why's' are not too hard  
To answer, if you will try.  
But there are others for which no one  
Has found the reason why.

### Activity 3. Reading in chorus

The teacher reads each line of the poem, and the children repeat it in chorus. This is done twice.

### Stage 2. Reading

### Activity 4. Knowing the key words

<i>curious</i>	interested to learn new things
<i>float</i>	to remain on the surface of water
<i>lead</i>	a kind of metal which is very heavy (what's the word in your mother-tongue ?)

After the key words have been explained, the teacher asks the children to read the entire poem twice silently and then asks them to answer these questions.

### Stage 3 After reading

### Activity 4. Comprehension

**Answer these questions.**

1. How is the little girl described in the first stanza ? Why is she described in this way ?
2. Make a list of five questions that this child asks. (The questions should begin with "Why" ?
  - i. Why \_\_\_\_\_ ?
  - ii Why \_\_\_\_\_ ?
  - iii Why \_\_\_\_\_ ?
  - iv Why \_\_\_\_\_ ?



v Why \_\_\_\_\_ ?

3. Is the poet able to answer all the questions that the child asks ?  
Which questions do you think the poet will be able to answer ?  
Which questions will(s) he *not* be able to answer ?

4. The child also asks one question that begins with “How” and another question that begins with ‘Where’. Can you complete the questions below?

How \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Where \_\_\_\_\_ ?

(The teacher should help the children in finding the answers from the poem and writing them in the correct form.)

#### **Activity 6. Discussion of the poem**

- 1 Can you think of some other questions that this child could ask ?
- 2 If a child asks you a question that you cannot answer, what will you do ?

#### **Activity 7. Speaking**

The teacher asks two children to read out the dialogue below.

Minu            Uncle, can I ask you a question ?

Uncle           If I say “No”, will you leave me in peace ?

Minu           Just one question, Uncle. Please !

Uncle           Very well.

Minu           Why do we have eyes in front, and not at the back of our heads ?

Uncle           I really don’t know the answer to that.

Minu            Then why ...

Uncle           Minu, you said you'd ask just one question.

Minu            Sorry, uncle !

This role-play can be repeated by two or three pairs of children in the class.

### **Activity 8.**      **How do you frame questions ?**

Make questions to get the sentences as the answers. The first one has been done for you.

1. That man is our new teacher.

Is that man our new teacher ?

2. The children are playing football.

\_\_\_\_\_ ?

3. Mohan is writing a letter to his friend.

\_\_\_\_\_ ?

4. Tendulkar will score a century in this match.

\_\_\_\_\_ ?

5. Amitabh can speak French.

\_\_\_\_\_ ?

6. These children have done their home work.

\_\_\_\_\_ ?

