

## Somebody's Mother

### READ THE POEM

This is a poem written by Mabel Down Northam Brine. It is a beautiful description of kindness to a stranger and kindness by a stranger, and the blessings it brings to both persons. An old and frail woman is waiting to cross a street. She is unable to do so for fear of slipping on the snow and falling under some carriage wheels or horses' feet. No one noticed her anxiety and fear on that crowded street. A group of noisy school boys who had finished their school day also rushed through the street. One happy little boy in the group noticed the old woman and quietly and gently guided her across the street. He helped the strange lady because she was old and must be somebody's mother. He hoped that some day, someone would be there to help his own mother when she was old and feeble, and he himself could not be with her.

On the other hand, the old lady whom he had helped blessed the strange little boy for helping her. She prayed to God to be kind to the noble boy who was somebody's son and must be the pride and joy of his mother's heart.

The poet is telling us two things through this poem. Firstly, it encourages kindness and compassion even to strangers. Secondly, it tells us that we receive what we give and what goes round, comes round. The help that the boy gave to the old lady came back to him as a blessing.

### READ AND DISCOVER

- ▶ Read the poem aloud correctly.
- ▶ Explain the poem as given above. It is written in couplets.
- ▶ Ask the students to learn and recite it. The couplets should be divided between five groups as follows: 4 + 5 + 4 + 4 + 2. This will maintain the cohesion of the poet's thoughts correctly.
- ▶ Then, the five groups can recite it. Correct them wherever required.
- ▶ Explain words and phrases, e.g., bent with the chill of the winter's day; glad in the freedom of 'school let out'; crows her down; lend a hand; etc.
- ▶ Exercise A: Ask one question at a time. Instruct the students to reply in complete sentences.
- ▶ Exercises B, C and D: These can be done by students on their own.
- ▶ The teacher can announce the correct answers aloud and students can check and correct their own work.

**Outcome:** Reading, reciting and enjoying; understanding words, meanings, spellings and pronunciation.