

Somebody's Mother

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Learning about the beauty and blessings that compassion and kindness brings into one's life, both for the giver and the receiver.
- Reading and reciting the poem with the correct rhythm and emphasis.
- Answering questions on the poem.
- Learning words, meanings, spellings, pronunciation, rhymes.
- **Outcome:** Kindness without any expectation of reward is very enriching.
- Understanding the poem well.
- Learning to pronounce perfectly by reciting the poem.

Read and Understand

- This poem by Mabel Dow Brine is a beautiful description of kindness to a stranger by a stranger, and how it brings blessings to both of them.
- Read aloud and enjoy the rhythm, rhyme and meaning of the poem.
- It is written in couplets – two rhyming lines in a set rhythm.
- Explain the poem so that the students understand how the poet talks about a kind act bringing blessings and rewards to both, the giver and the receiver.
- Explain the poem clearly to the students: This poem is about an old, frail woman waiting to cross a crowded street. She is unable to do so for fear of slipping on the snow and falling under some carriage wheels or horses' feet. As she waits, no one notices her anxiety and fear on that crowded street. People pass her by, unheeding of her worry. A group of school boys rushes chattering and laughing through the street, now that school is over. One cheerful little boy in the group notices the old lady. He quietly and gently guides her across the street, without making a great show of helping her. Neither of them knows the other's name, but his heart is 'happy and well content' for he has helped 'somebody's mother' and hopes that someday, someone would be there to help his own mother when she is old and feeble and he cannot be there with her. Meanwhile, the old lady remembers the strange little boy with gratitude and that night, when she prays to God, she asks that He may bless the noble boy who must be the pride and joy of his mother's heart. The poem tells us two things: (a) It encourages compassion, even to strangers. (b) It tells us that we receive what we give to others in this world – what goes round, comes round. The boy gave help and the old lady gave him blessings.
- Explain phrases like: bent with the chill of the winter's day; school let out; crowd her down; lend a hand, etc.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discuss the exercises and ask the students to answer them orally, before writing the answers down. ➤ Ask them to learn the poem and recite it correctly in turns in the class. Correct them where necessary. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Learning about anagrams. ➤ Exercise A: Let the students do the exercise on their own and write new words from the given words. ➤ Announce the answers and the students can check their work. 	Word Power
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Exercise A: By now, the students will have some idea of what a simile is. Refresh their memories, explaining its use, especially in poetry. ➤ Give examples from the book to explain. Encourage the students to think of examples of their own too. ➤ Now, let them do Exercise A on their own. ➤ Check their work individually. ➤ Exercises B and C: Explain the exercises and let the students do them in their own. ➤ Announce the answers and let them check their work. 	Appreciating the Poem
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Exercise A: Let the students discuss the exercise, along with the different options, in groups of four. ➤ Explain and clarify any questions or doubts from the students. ➤ Then let them do the exercise on their own. Ask them to explain the options they choose. ➤ Exercise B: This can be done by the students on their own. Help them in making the collage, if required. 	Project Work/ AIL Activity