

I Cannot Remember My Mother

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Learning to be sensitive about the loss of a parent or someone loved in the family and how the memory is cherished.
- Learning about the nurturing aspect of nature as a mother.
- Reading and reciting the poem with the correct rhythm and emphasis.
- Answering questions on the poem.
- Learning words and their meanings, spellings, pronunciation, rhymes.
- **Outcome:** Learning to be sensitive about nature, loss, memories, etc.
- Understanding the poem well.
- Learning to pronounce perfectly by reciting the poem.

Read and Understand

- This is a poem by Rabindranath Tagore, whose mother died when he was very small. He therefore writes that he cannot remember his mother. But every beautiful and gentle aspect of his life and nature that he sees reminds him of her and tells him how she must have loved him.
- When we are far away from someone we love or if someone very dear to us dies, we have memories to sustain us in our grief and loneliness and make us strong again.
- The poem has three stanzas and is written in free verse, that is, it has no rhyme scheme. In the first stanza, the poet recollects a faint memory of his mother's songs that seem to linger around his toys and playthings, a song that she sang while he slept in his cradle. It was perhaps a lullaby to help him sleep. In the second stanza, the poet's memory awakes one autumn morning, with the fragrance of shiuli flowers. He remembers the fragrance that comes to him from the temple where the morning service is being performed. Perhaps these were the flowers his mother used when she worshipped the deity at home. In the third stanza, the poet looks out of his bedroom window at the vast expanse of the still, blue sky and thinks that perhaps his mother must have gazed at him as still and tranquil as the sky gazes at the earth. Thus, although he cannot remember his mother distinctly, memories of her song, her fragrance or her gaze flash into his mind whenever he observes something beautiful.
- Read aloud and enjoy the rhythm, rhyme and meaning of the poem.
- Explain the words and phrases like: a tune seems to hover over my playthings; the scent of the morning service; send my eyes, etc.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discuss the exercises and ask the students to answer them orally, before writing the answers down. Explain the context of the questions from the poem and ensure that the students understand it before they answer. ➤ 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"> ➤ Explain what homographs are to the students, giving examples from the book and your own too. ➤ Encourage the students to give examples of their own as well. ➤ Then let them do Exercise A on their own. ➤ Write the answers on the board and the students can check their work. 	Word Power
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Explain what imagery is and how it is used, especially in poetry. ➤ Give many examples from day to day life that the students can easily relate to. ➤ Then let them do the exercise on their own. ➤ Check the work of each student individually. 	Appreciating the Poem
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The students can make the cards at home and share them in the class. Also, let them share the lists they make with their partners. 	Project Work/ AIL Activity