

## About Ben Adhem

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Learning about the rewards of living a life of service to one's fellow-men and God.
- Reading and reciting the poem with the correct rhythm and emphasis.
- Answering questions on the poem.
- Learning words, meanings, spellings, pronunciation, rhymes.
- **Outcome:** Serving one's fellow-men without any expectation of reward brings the blessings of the Lord.
- Understanding the poem well.
- Learning to pronounce perfectly by reciting the poem.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This poem is written by Leigh Hunt, who wrote in the 19th century. It is based on old Arabic lore. It is said that once a year, God takes the golden book of mankind and selects those persons who are dear to him and who love him.</li> <li>➤ Read aloud and enjoy the rhythm, rhyme and meaning of the poem.</li> <li>➤ It is written in couplets – two rhyming lines in a set rhythm.</li> <li>➤ Explain the poem so that the students understand how the poet talks about service to and love for one's fellow-men is the highest form of prayer and such persons are very dear to God.</li> <li>➤ Explain the background of the poem clearly to the students. It reflects the divine conversation between an angel from God and a sufi saint, Abou Ben Adhem, who loves his fellow-men and serves them. In God's eyes, this is the greatest form of showing love for God.</li> <li>➤ Explain phrases like: may his tribe increase [a commonly used blessing or greeting]; making it rich [enriched by the angel's presence and the light]; a book of gold [for judging men]; a great waking light [not only waking Abou, but making him conscious of God's blessing]; and old words like 'writest', 'thou', 'nay', etc.; and simile: like a lily in bloom.</li> <li>➤ Discuss the exercises and ask the students to answer them orally, before writing the answers down.</li> <li>➤ Ask them to learn the poem and recite it correctly in turns in the class. Correct them where necessary.</li> </ul>	<b>Read and Understand</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Learning how to form new words from the letters of old words.</li> <li>➤ Exercise A: Briefly explain the exercise and let the students do it on their own.</li> <li>➤ Announce the answers or write them on the board so that the students can check their work.</li> </ul>	<b>Word Power</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Exercise A: Ask the students to find the rhyming words from the poem. They can take the help of their partners in this.</li> </ul>	<b>Appreciating the Poem</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Exercise B: The students can find the antonyms of the given words from the poem on their own.</li> <li>➤ Announce the answers of Exercises A and B and the students can check their work.</li> <li>➤ Exercises C and D: Briefly explain the terms 'simile' and 'alliteration' with examples and then let the students do the exercises on their own.</li> <li>➤ Write down the answers on the board and the students can check their work.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Work/ AIL Activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Exercise A: Ask the students to find the relevant quotations from the Internet. They will be able to do this activity on their own.</li> </ul>