

Evening

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- The poet in this poem is describing his feelings about a time when evening sets in and a gloomy darkness fills the whole atmosphere.
- He is also trying to tell us how he is not afraid of the dark because he remembers God all the time. God will be with him while he sleeps. God will protect him because he prays to Him. God loves all creatures – the rich, the poor, the great and the small.
- Since God is love, we also must love one another and remove hatred from this world. Only then will there be peace and love everywhere.
- Encourage the students to recite the poem in groups.
- **Outcome:** The poet communicates with God by describing beauties of nature, such as the sun, the moon, the stars, the sea, the sky, the trees and the grass.
- He also remembers (communicates) with the Almighty when he closes his eyes in sleep; when he raises his hands for prayer; and when he bows down on his knees, as he knows that God is with him all the time.
- The poet conveys the message that we should love one another and abolish hatred from this world.
- Explain to the students the rhyme scheme of the poem and ask them to pick rhyming words like set – wet, sky – fly, etc.

- This poem by Thomas Miller is a prayer of gratitude to God for all the wonderful things He has given to us on Earth and in our lives. The poet, as a little boy, also expresses his faith in God, believing that in all his troubles God will be there beside him and will take care of him.
- Make six groups and ask each group to learn one stanza. Then the poem can be recited in class.
- Stanza 1: It is customary to say our prayer of gratitude at night before we go to bed. So, the poet says it is the time of sunset, when the stars have come out and dew is falling and night creatures like bats have come out.
- Stanza 2: As sunset falls and night comes, all creatures return to their homes and rest. Little lambs are resting, and birds have fallen asleep in their nests. Everything becomes still and silent, even the air. Darkness descends and even the woods on the hillside seem to be asleep.
- Stanza 3: The poet, as a little boy, feels as safe in the dark as during the day because he knows God is beside him and will take care of him. So he is fearless.
- Stanza 4: The poet has faith that God is beside him when he prays and will watch over him with love and care while he sleeps.

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