

Trees Are the Kindest Things

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Learning the value of trees in our environment.
- Observing how generous trees are and learning from them.
- Reading and reciting the poem with the correct rhythm and emphasis.
- Answering questions on the poem.
- Learning words, meanings, spellings, pronunciation, rhymes.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This poem is by Harry Behn. It describes how the poet observes trees and sees so much that is wonderful and generous about them. We see trees every day but fail to notice their 'kindness': they give so generously and ask for nothing in return. It is, therefore, essential to care for trees, because we will then be caring for ourselves too. ➤ Read aloud and enjoy the rhythm, rhyme and meaning of the poem. Explain the poem clearly to the students so that they understand how the poet observes all the wonderful things in his surroundings. Ask them to learn the poem and recite it correctly in turns in the class. Correct them where necessary. ➤ 1st Stanza - In this stanza the poet praises trees for simply being there, for being so harmless. They grow and unselfishly provide shade to all the animals who come looking for shade on a hot day and their branches provide a place for birds to nest. ➤ 2nd Stanza - The poet praises the generosity of trees. They give us delicious fruits, wood to make our houses, leaves that we burn to make bonfires at Halloween, and in spring new buds come out again after fall and winter. ➤ 3rd Stanza - The poet realises that the sunshine first touches the tops of trees at dawn; and they are still full of light when the sun is setting. At twilight, the tops of trees are touched by the evening light. 4th Stanza - And at night, when the moon rises, the trees 'hum a lullaby' as the wind gently rustles through the leaves, as the birds sleep. It seems to sing also of children of past times who slept under its shade. And that is why the poet thinks that trees are really the kindest things he knows. 	Read and Enjoy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A to C: Discuss the exercises and ask the students to answer them on their own. Announce the answers and let partners check each other's work. 	Read and Understand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A. Ask students to work with their partners and to use their dictionaries to write suitable sentences. Check their work individually. 	Word Power

Appreciating the Poem	<p>➤ Read and explain what is meant by 'Personification' – treating something that is not a person as a person or a living thing. Guide the students to recognise personification in the examples and in the given stanza.</p>
Project Work/AIL Activity	<p>➤ A. Explain the exercise and let the students do it on their own.</p>