

# A PRAYER FOR HEALING

## LESSON OVERVIEW

L.No.	Title of the Lesson	Skills			Grammar/Figures of speech	Activity	Life Skills
		Listening/speaking	Reading	Writing			
18	A Prayer for Healing	Reading aloud the slogans	Silent reading of the poem with understanding	Letter to editor	Use of refrain	Writing letters, slogans; Discussions, Studying advertisements	Establishing eco-sensitivity

### SUMMARY

The poem is set in the backdrop of the idea that man has overexploited nature through selfish and thoughtless activities. Such insensitivity has resulted not only in depletion of all natural resources, leaving the earth starved of all its riches, but has also impacted man's own life. If we do not mend our habits, there shall be endless suffering that may also bring all life to a halt.

Through this poem, the poet urges man to work hand in hand towards restoring the natural resources like water, fresh air, forests, etc. without which our life cannot be sustained. Man must try to conserve, safeguard, protect and restore all elements of nature so that he can live once again in harmony with nature and with each other.

We need to develop eco-sensitive habits and all our actions should reflect our concern for humanity and for our children for whom we should leave a healthy legacy. Restoring nature's balance will promote peace and harmony amongst all and will also heal the ailing planet earth. Thus we shall be able to renew life in all its forms.

### PRINCIPAL POINTS

- We should not over exploit our natural resources.
- Man must respect nature and develop habits to conserve nature.
- We must think of our future generations too. If we deplete all resources selfishly there will be nothing left for our children and they will find it impossible to live on this planet.

- Restoring nature's balance will ensure peace, harmony and happiness for all.

### LET'S LEARN NEW EXPRESSIONS

**Refrain:** Refrain is a poetic device used by poets to convey an important point. It is a line or a phrase which is repeated at regular intervals. The purpose of refrain is to lay emphasis on a particular idea. It also lends it a musical quality.

In the poem 'A Prayer for Healing', each stanza begins with the phrase, "We join with the earth..." This expression invariably comes in prayers when we join our hands to pray for something. Here, the poet urges man to join hands with Mother Nature and help it to restore its natural wealth. Also, you will find that each subsequent line in the stanza begins with the word, 'to'. This word emphasises action (to do something).

### ENHANCE YOUR PERFORMANCE

Writing a letter to the editor or a newspaper

A **letter** is marked on three things: format, content and expression.

- **The format** consists of the sender's address, date, the receiver's designation and address, salutation (Dear Sir/ Madam, etc.)
- **The content** consists of the body of the letter which must state your point or action requiring clarity and proper organisation of ideas.
- **Expression** refers to—correct spelling, punctuation, use of grammatically correct sentences and also, how well the subject matter or flow of thoughts and ideas are organised.

**Letter to Editor:** This is a form of a formal letter to an Editor of a newspaper. Such letters can be written by anybody to highlight some issue of concern. Letters to the Editor are also written to share one's opinion about a burning issue, an important event or to respond to some comments or policies of the government or a public Institution.

You have already studied the format of a formal letter in the lesson, 'A Tiger Comes to Town.'

### TEST TYPES

#### 1. MCQ/Objective type question (understanding)

Answer the following question by choosing the correct option from the ones given below:

Which poetic device has been used in the poem?

- A. Rhyming lines
- B. Metaphor
- C. Refrain
- D. Simile

#### 2. VSA (higher order thinking skills)

Complete the following statement by filling in the blanks with suitable words.

Through the line, 'to remember our children' the poet wishes to remind mankind that he must leave ..... for his future generations.

#### 3. SA (inference)

What according to the poet are '.....the diverse expressions of one loving mystery...' and how will they be helpful?

#### 4. LA (extrapolatory)

Write an imaginary story of suffering and struggle for survival of man in a world without air, water or trees.