

# ONCE UPON A TIME

## LESSON OVERVIEW

L.No.	Title of the Lesson	Skills			Grammar/Figures of speech	Activity	Life Skills
		Listening/speaking	Reading	Writing			
25	Once Upon A Time	Reciting the poem with expressions	Reading the poem silently with understanding	Making a diary entry	Metaphor, Satire	Introspection	Making decision, Empathising

### SUMMARY

The poem, 'Once Upon A Time' written by Gabriel Okara, compares the behaviour of people in the olden days with that of the modern people. In the olden days, people were genuine. There was no hypocrisy in their words or deeds. They said what they meant, without any diplomacy. The conduct of modern man, on the other hand, is hard to understand because he puts on many faces and says things which he does not mean.

Like honest speech, hospitality has also become a thing of the past. The arrival of a guest or a visitor seems to be an intrusion on one's purse and privacy. In the latter part of the poem, the poet also gives a contrasting picture of the simplicity and innocence of children and the pretentious and cunning adults. The poet is deeply pained by the conduct of the modern man. He longs for the innocence of a child and also reverts to man's earlier behaviour before the influence of materialism of the West..

### PRINCIPAL POINTS

- In the olden days people were genuine and were not hypocrites.
- People used to say what they meant.
- Guests were welcome in every house.
- Modern man has learnt to put on different faces in different situations.
- Childhood is the period of innocence.
- The poet longs to be innocent and simple like a child.

### LET'S LEARN NEW EXPRESSIONS

Poets often use different figures of speech like simile, metaphor, and alliteration etc. to heighten the effect of what they say. e.g.

- **Laugh with their hearts** is a metaphorical expression which means laugh genuinely.
- **Ice- block cold eyes** – is also a metaphorical expression which means the eyes are as cold and devoid of feeling and warmth as blocks of ice.

- **While the left hands search my pocket** means assess my financial status, look for something in my possession.
- **Portrait smile** means a put on smile without any feeling.
- **Snake's fangs** – laughter without genuine feelings is as dangerous as the fangs of a snake.

#### ENHANCE YOUR PERFORMANCE

##### Diary writing

Refer to earlier lessons where this has been dealt with in detail.

#### TEST TYPES

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

Complete the following statement by choosing the most appropriate options from the ones given below:

Once upon a time people used to

- A. wear a portrait smile.
- B. have warm hearts.
- C. feel at home.
- D. laugh with their teeth only.

##### 2. VSA (understanding)

Complete the following statement by filling in the blanks.

There will be no thrice means that the doors would be ..... if they become frequent visitors.

##### 3. SA (understanding)

What does the poet want to unlearn?

##### 4. LA (understanding)

What difference does the poet find between the behaviour of the people of the olden days and that of the modern man?