

# Unit 14

## Pleasure and Purpose-1



### Objectives:

After completion of this unit, you should be able to –

- Get familiarized with a particular form of literature - poetry.
- Recognize different literary terms such as stanza, rhyme scheme, sounds, stress and intonation.
- Recite poem aloud to get pleasure.
- Interpret, evaluate, and paraphrase poetry in their own language.
- Understand and enjoy English poetry.

### Overview

Lesson 1: Time, You Old Gipsy Man

Lesson 2: The Sands of Dee

Lesson 3: Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

### Answer key

## Lesson One : Time, You Old Gipsy Man

### A. Read the title of the poem and answer the following questions:

- i. What do you understand by gipsy?
- ii. Do you find their life style interesting? If yes, why?
- iii. How are they different from general people?
- iv. How many stanzas are there in the poem?



### B. Now Read the poem and answer the questions that follow:

#### Time, You Old Gipsy Man

Time, You Old Gipsy Man  
Will you not stay,  
Put up your caravan  
Just for one day?

All things I'll give you  
Will you be my guest,  
Bells for your jennet  
Of silver the best,  
Goldsmiths shall beat you  
A great golden ring,

Peacocks shall bow to you,  
 Little boys sing.  
 Oh, and sweet girls will  
 Festoon you with may,  
 Time, you old gipsy,  
 Why hasten away?

Last week in Babylon,  
 Last night in Rome,  
 Morning, and in the crush  
 Under Paul's dome;  
 Under Paul's dial  
 You tighten your rein--  
 Only a moment,  
 And off once again;  
 Off to some city  
 Now blind in the womb,  
 Off to another  
 Ere that's in the tomb.

Time, you old gipsy man,  
 Will you not stay,  
 Put up your caravan  
 Just for one day ?

- Ralph Hodgson



### C. Attempt the Following Activities:

#### A. Which of the following statement(s) is/are true?

1. The central idea of the poem is that time waits for none.
2. This poem has been written to make readers realize the importance of time.
3. The substance of the poem relates to how time is always moving.
4. Time is compared to gipsies who are always moving.

#### B. Answer the following questions:

1. Do you find relationship between time and an old gipsy man? What is that?
2. What things the poet wants to offer time if it stays for a day?
3. If time stays for you for a day, what things you will offer?
4. Identify the two cities that the poet has mentioned in the poem.
5. Do you find rhyme scheme in the poem? Locate.

## Lesson Two : The Sands of Dee

### A. Read the title, look at the picture and answer the question.



1. Is the title of the poem a phrase or a clause?
2. What do you understand by 'sand'?
3. What is the difference between 'sand' and 'sands'?
4. What do you understand by 'Dee'?
5. Can you name some more rivers of your country?
6. Can you predict, on the basis of the title and the picture, what is likely to happen in the poem?
7. Try to find out as many details as possible of the setting of the poem from the picture given.
8. What can you predict from the picture?



### B. Now read the poem aloud and answer the questions that follow:

#### **The Sands of Dee**

"O Mary, go and call the cattle home,  
And call the cattle home,  
And call the cattle home,  
Across the sands of Dee."

The western wind was wild and dark with foam  
And all alone went she.

The western tide crept up along the sand,  
 And o'er and o'er the sand,  
 And round and round the sand,  
 As far as eye could see.  
 The rolling mist came down and hid the land;  
 And never home came she.  
 Oh! is it weed, or fish, or floating hair,--  
 A tress of golden hair,  
 A drownèd maiden's hair,  
 Above the nets at sea?  
 Was never salmon yet that shone so fair  
 Among the stakes on Dee.

They rowed her in across the rolling foam,  
 The cruel crawling foam,  
 The cruel hungry foam,  
 To her grave beside the sea.  
 But still the boatmen hear her call the cattle home  
 Across the sands of Dee.



### C. Answer the following questions:

1. Is the river in low tide or high tide?
2. Is the river calm and quiet or stormy and violent?
3. Is the grassy island empty or are there cattle crazing on it?
4. Who is Mary?
5. Is Mary a maiden or a woman? Is there any mention of her age in the text? If not, how do you know that she is a maiden?
6. Where did Mary go to call the cattle home? Did she go alone?
7. What happened to Mary?
8. Who found her dead body and where?
9. Who brought the dead body to the shore?
10. What do the boatmen still hear across the sands of Dee?



### D. List of vocabulary:

cattle - *cows and bulls*  
 dark with foam - *wet with water drops*  
 tide - *the flow of water in a river*  
 crept up - *came rolling*  
 rolling - *moving*  
 weed - *sea plant*  
 golden hair - *English girls have golden hair*  
 drowned - *died from drowning*  
 crawling - *moving along the ground*  
 grave - *burial place*

**B. Attempt the following tasks:**

**1. What impression of the wind do you get from the following words and phrases?**

Wild wind  
Wind...dank with foam  
rolling mist

- i. Is the wind normal and gentle or is it wild and stormy?
- ii. Is the weather fair and cool or is it misty and rough?

**2. What idea of the setting do you gather from the following words and phrases?**

tide crept up along the sand  
the rolling foam  
the cruel crawling foam  
grave beside the sea.

- i. Is the setting likely to be a hilly area or a sandy beach?
- ii. Is it already under water or going to be submerged by the cruelcrawling foam?
- iii. Why is the crawling foam cruel?

**3. What do the following phrases suggest?**

never home came she  
floating hair  
drowned maiden's hair  
grave beside the sea

- i. What happened to the maiden?
- ii. Was she drowned?
- iii. Was her hair floating in the river?
- iv. Was she buried in the grave beside the sea?

**Lesson 3: Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening**

**A. Before you read the poem, ask and answer the questions:**

1. Can you predict, on the basis of the title, what is likely to happen in the poem?
2. Do you think that the words used in the title indicate that the poem is about nature?
3. How will you feel if you are in a place of natural beauty similar to the one described in the poem?



**B. Now read the poem aloud and identify how the words in each stanza rhyme.**

**One is done for you.**

**Stanza 1- know (line 1) rhymes with though (line 2) ...**

Whose woods these are I think I know.  
 His house is in the village though;  
 He will not see me stopping here  
 To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer  
 To stop without a farmhouse near  
 Between the woods and frozen lake  
 The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake  
 To ask if there is some mistake.  
 The only other sound's the sweep  
 Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.  
 But I have promises to keep,  
 And miles to go before I sleep,  
 And miles to go before I sleep.



**C. List of textual vocabulary:**

little -- diminutive, gentleness

queer -- unusual, out of the ordinary

stop -- come to rest,

farmhouse -- welcoming lively place, warmth

darkest evening of the year -- solstice, turning point, mystery

harness bells -- sounds of leather and bells,

a shake -- playfulness, mild protest  
sweep of easy wind -- hush of wind whispering gently across tree branches and snow  
downy flake -- gentle soft murmur of snow accumulating on branches and fenceposts  
lovely -- pleasing, pleasant, appealing  
deep -- endless, continuing, hidden mysteries and wonders  
dark -- not brazen, secret, hidden  
promises -- assurances to oneself  
miles to go -- journey, life to live, accomplishments to achieve  
sleep -- rest, stillness



**D. Choose the correct/appropriate answers of the following questions:**

- 1. Why does the narrator stop by the woods?**
  - a. To see the woods filled up with snow
  - b. To see the fires burning
  - c. To hear the harness bells
  - d. To see the stars twinkling
- 2. What must think it's queer to stop?**
  - a. A little horse
  - b. A little cat
  - c. A little dog
  - d. A little fox
- 3. Insert the missing word: "Between the ----- and frozen lake"**
  - a. Woods
  - b. Roads
  - c. Village
  - d. Creek
- 4. Is this line correct: "The coldest evening of the year."?**
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
- 5. Who/what gives his harness bells a shake?**
  - a. The little cow
  - b. The little mule
  - c. The little horse
  - d. The little pony
- 6. Why does he give his harness bells a shake?**
  - a. To hear the sound echoing in the woods
  - b. To ask if there is some mistake
  - c. To see the glittering bells
  - d. To hear the glittering bells
- 7. Why didn't the narrator stay in the woods?**
  - a. Because his little horse is getting impatient
  - b. Because he still has miles to go
  - c. Because he's getting cold
  - d. Because he's tired of waiting in the woods