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LEISURE

*D*o you know what ‘leisure’ means? It means the free time which you can spend in an activity of your choice.

What do you do in your leisure hours?

Do you read a book/play a game/see a movie/ go for a walk/ listen to music/watch T.V./ visit a friend/ admire the beauty of nature?

Now let us read the poem. To begin with, read the poem aloud to enjoy its rhythm. Then read it silently and slowly- and try to answer the following questions.

What is this life if full of care
 We have no time to stand and stare?
 No time to stand beneath the boughs.
 And stare as long as sheep or cows.
 No time to see when woods we pass
 Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
 No time to turn at Beauty’s glance
 And watch her feet, how they can dance.
 No time to wait till her mouth can
 Enrich that smile her eyes began.
 A poor life this if, full of care
 We have no time to stand and stare.

- *W.H.Davies*

DISCUSSION

Why does the poet want us to have some free time/leisure?

Now read the first four lines again.

1. What is this life if full of care



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2. We have no time to stand and stare?
3. No time to stand beneath the boughs.
4. And stare as long as sheep or cows.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 2.1

Answer the following questions:

1. What do you understand by the word 'care' in the first line?
2. What does the poet mean by the phrase 'stand and stare'? Pick out the correct answer from the three alternatives given below: It means –
 - (a) Looking at things unblinkingly
 - (b) Looking at the beauties of nature and enjoying them.
 - (c) Lost in thought looking at nothing
3. What is it that sheep and cows do for which we have no time?

DISCUSSION

We will, now, read the next four lines

5. No time to see when woods we pass
6. Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
7. No time to turn at Beauty's glance
8. And watch her feet, how they can dance.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 2.2

1. What does the poet think we need time for in

Lines 5 to 6 _____

Lines 7 to 8 _____
2. In the seventh line the poet spells the word 'Beauty' with a capital letter 'B'. "No time to turn at Beauty's glance". Does it refer to a beautiful girl or to the beauties of nature or to both?
3. How do the beauties dance? (Think of tall trees, grass, waves etc.)

In these lines the poet looks at nature and imagines her as a girl with dancing feet. The poet has given human qualities to the beauties of nature. When an idea or an object is thought of as a person, we call it personification. Poets, often, make use of it to say more in a few words. Look at the two sentences given below.

- (i) Destruction of forests harms the earth.
- (ii) The mother earth cries to see her forests being destroyed.

The first sentence is a simple statement of facts. The second sentence personifies the idea. Which one appeals to you more? The second one, isn't it?

Here are some more examples of personification.

- (i) Death! Be not proud.
- (ii) The sun is smiling.

4. Can you think of two more examples of personification?

DISCUSSION

We will, now, read the last four lines of the poem.

- 9. No time to wait till her mouth can
- 10. Enrich that smile her eyes began
- 11. A poor life this if, full of care
- 12. We have no time to stand and stare



INTEXT QUESTIONS 2.3

1. Who is 'her' in line no. 9?
2. The line "till her mouth can enrich that smile her eyes began" means that
Tick mark (✓) the correct answer.
 - (a) a rich woman smiles with her eyes
 - (b) eyes and mouth smile together
 - (c) Beauty's smile begins from the eyes and spreads to her lips.
3. What according to the poet is a poor life?



OVERALL QUESTIONS

1. Who is 'we' in the poem?
2. Which words have been repeated six times in the poem? Why?
3. Some of the words that rhyme in the poem are
 - care ————— stare
 - bough ————— cow

Complete the list with other pairs of rhyming words from the poem.

4. You have some leisure time on hand and your friend wants you to spend this time in risk-taking behaviour like driving, trying out narcotic drugs or having your first cigarette. (You wish to avoid them without antagonizing them. You also wish to prevent them from doing so. How would you go about it?)



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Complete the dialogue given below with appropriate expressions.

Amit: Thank God, we have a break before the Economics Paper. Let's go to the canteen and have some coffee.

Rahul: I have a better idea. Why don't we have a cigarette instead? It's a great stress-buster. I tried it the other day and could feel myself unwinding.

Amit: (Hesitates) I am not too sure _____

Rahul: Come on don't be such a sissy. One cigarette won't do you any harm.

Amit: Isn't it habit forming? I have heard _____

Rahul: Oh, no

Amit: Then why do the cigarette packets have the statutory warning _____

**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS****Intext Questions 2.1**

- To look at the beauties of nature and enjoy them.
- (b) It means looking at beauties of nature and enjoying them.
- Sheep and cows have time to stand and stare but we don't have any time for that.

Intext Questions 2.2

- Lines 5 to 6 to see the squirrel hide their nuts in the grass.
Lines 7 to 8 to turn at Beauty's glance and watch her dancing feet.
- Beauty could refer to both the beauties of nature and a beautiful girl.
- Beauties of nature dance when the trees sway in the breeze; waves leap up, bees dance, birds fly. (You must also give other examples)
- (i) The trees stand tall with their heads high.
(ii) Mountains speaking to the sky.

Intext Questions 2.3

- Beauty
- (c) Beauty's smile begins from the eyes and spreads to the lips.
- A poor life, according to the poet, is a life, which is so full of worries that we have no time to relax and enjoy the beauties of nature.

OVERALL QUESTIONS

- 'We' refers to the human beings who have no time to look and enjoy the beauties of nature.
- "No time". The phrase 'no time' is repeated to emphasize the idea.
- pass ——— grass glance ——— dance can ——— began
- The poet says that our lives are so full of worries and responsibilities that we have no time to enjoy the beauties of nature and our surroundings.