



Poem-2
**THE STICK-TOGETHER
FAMILIES**

(ஒருங்கிணைந்த பல்லுக்குக் கூட்டுக்குடும்பங்கள்)
Edgar Albert Guest



A. Based on your understanding of the poem, answer the questions in a sentence or two.

1. *The gladdest people living are the wholesome folks who make
A circle at the fireside that no power but death can break.*
 - a) **Who are the gladdest people living ?**
The gladdest people are the children from joint family.
 - b) **Where do they gather?**
They gather at the fireside.
 - c) **What can break their unity?**
Death only can break their unity.
2. *And the finest of conventions ever held beneath the sun
Are the little family gatherings when the busy day is done.*
 - a) **When do they have their family gatherings?**
They have their family gatherings during holidays.
 - b) **Where do they have their family conventions?**
They have their family conventions under the sun.
 - c) **What does the poet mean by 'finest conventions'?**
"Finest conventions" means a large formal meeting of people to share their fun.
3. *There are rich folk, there are poor folk, who imagine they are wise,
And they're very quick to shatter all the little family ties.*
 - a) **What do the rich and poor folk imagine themselves to be?**
The rich and poor folk imagine themselves to be wise.
 - b) **What do they do to their families?**
They shatter their families' ties.
 - c) **Whom does 'they' refer to?**
'They' refers to the rich and poor folk.
4. *There are some who seem to fancy that for gladness they must roam,
That for smiles that are the brightest they must wander far from home*
 - a) **Why do they roam?**
They roam to find happiness in their selected way.
 - b) **According to them, when do they get bright smiles?**
They think that they get bright smiles when they wander far away from home.
5. *But the gladdest sort of people, when the busy day is done,
Are the brothers and the sisters who together share their fun.*
 - a) **Who are the gladdest people?**
The children from joint family are the gladdest people.
 - b) **When do they share their fun?**
They share their fun when the busy day is over.
 - c) **What does 'who' refer to?**
'Who' refers to the brothers and sisters of stick together families.

6. *It's the stick-together family that wins the joys of earth,
That hears the sweetest music and that finds the finest mirth;*

a) Who wins the joys of the earth?

The stick-together family wins the joys of the earth.

b) How do they find their joy?

They find their joy hearing the sweetest music.

c) What does the poet mean by 'stick-together family'?

Stick-together family means the families of brothers and sisters should be loyal to one another. Then only they lead a happy life.

B. Based on the understanding of the poem, fill in the blanks using the words and phrases given below to make a meaningful summary of the poem.

brothers and sisters	bitterness	joint family	share their fun	rich and the poor folk
shatter their family	charm of life	separate ways	the joy of earth	stick-together families

The poet brings out the difference in the attitudes of children living in joint family and nuclear family. The stick-together families are the happiest of all. Where as the brothers and sisters of nuclear families take separate ways. The gladdest people are the children from joint family who circle near the fireside. No power other than death can break them. The rich and the poor folk imagine themselves to be wise and in the process they shatter their family ties. Each of them goes searching for pleasure in their own selected way. They harvest only bitterness and find empty joy. But the wisest among them are the children of the stick-together families. When the busy day is done, they together share their fun. The stick-together family wins the joy of earth. The old house shelters all the charm of life. The poet invites wandering brothers to come and join the stick-together families in their fireside and have fun.

C. Answer the following questions in about 80 - 100 words. (TB-123)

1. The stick-together families are the happiest of all. Explain.

The poet Edgar Albert Guest emphasizes the value of relationships in a family. The stick-together families are the happiest of all. All the family members are gathered at the fire-side. They would have shared their happiness by hearing the sweetest music. When their busy works are over, the brothers and sisters have their family meeting under the sun.

They share their fun and win the joy of earth. The old house shelters all the charm of life. The children from joint families are the gladdest people in the world. They have a contented life. Family get-together brings harmony and develops bondage among the relatives. The thread of love which binds everyone strengthens the unity among them. Other than death nothing can break their unity. For all these reasons, the stick-together families are the happiest of all.

There is nothing quite as valuable as family for those lucky enough to have one.

2. Bring out the difference between the children of the joint family and nuclear family.

Children of joint family	Children of nuclear family
They are the happiest of all.	They suffer a lot.
They win the joy of the earth.	They harvest only bitterness.
They are really wise people.	They imagine themselves to be wise.
They circle near the fireside and have fun.	They are roaming in search of pleasure and find empty joy.
They are united together. No power other than death can break them.	Detaching from others, they shatter their family ties.
The old house shelters all the charm of life.	They are tired wandering far and wide.

(OR)

The poet brings out the difference in the attitudes of children living in joint family and nuclear family. The stick-together families are the happiest of all. Where as the brothers and sisters of nuclear families take separate ways. The gladdest people are the children from joint family who circle near the fireside. No power other than death can break them. The rich and the poor folk imagine themselves to be wise and in the process they shatter their family ties. Each of them goes searching for pleasure in their own selected way. They harvest only bitterness and find empty joy. But the wisest among them are the children of the stick-together families. When the busy day is done, they together share their fun. The stick-together family wins the joy of earth. The old house shelters all the charm of life . The poet invites wandering brothers to come and join the stick-together families in their fire side and have fun.

Paragraph for slow learners

- The stick-together families are the happiest of all.
- All the family members are gathered at the fire-side.
- They share their fun.
- They win the joy of earth.
- Family get-together brings harmony.
- The thread of love binds everyone.
- It strengthens the unity among them.
- Nothing can break their unity except death.

D. Answer the following (TB-124)

1. *There are rich folk, there are poor folk, who imagine they are wise,...*

a) Pick out the words in alliteration.

There-they, folk-folk

b) Mention the rhyme scheme of the poem.

aa-bb-cc