**Std. XII – English**

**Teaching and Poetry.**

***Song of the Open Road*   -**Walt Whitman.

Learning and teaching any language or subject is not a one-way process. It is an integrated process. It is always appended with interaction. The use of various methods, activities, and approaches while teaching any language can develop the basic skills of learners. But, nowadays teaching English in our colleges is merely for preparing our students for examinations. It taught and looked like a mono way where our students got only shallow information about the topic. Teaching Poetry is also not an exception to this. Teaching Poetry does not take place within single reading or explanation, it comprises various steps. Therefore, I would like to give an example poem with a specimen lesson plan and explanation.

Lesson Plan

**Class -**   XII                                                                                                              **Subject -** English

**Topic -**    Section – II Poem.                            **Unit No – 2.1** ***Song of the Open Road*** – Walt Whitman

**Allotted Periods - 04**  **Month –**June

**Lecturer / Teacher -** Dr. Uday Purandar Shirgave,

**General Objective/s:**

Read for pleasure, information, and knowledge.

Read to understand the obvious meaning of the lines of a poem and also the subtle meaning between the lines.

**Teaching Aids used:**

General Teaching Aids                :  Black / White Board, Marker Writing Pens, Duster, Pointer, etc.

Instructional Teaching Aids        : Black/ White Board, PPTs, Videos, Charts, and Pdf Notes

**Warm-up Conversation / Previous Knowledge Testing:**

The teacher introduce given ice breaker activities and tested previous knowledge teacher ask a few simple questions to turn them towards the topic. (As per Textbook’s ICE BREAKERS ACTIVITY)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Point No.** | **Teacher’s Activity** | **Pupil’s Activity** | **Board Writing Work** |
| **01** | The teacher interacts with students about the Ice-breakers activity from the textbook.  For Example –  **Discuss the ways in which you would overcome the problems/hindrances/difficulties you face during your journey.**  (a)     (b)     (c)       (d) | The Students listen carefully and try to answer the icebreaker's activity. | **ICE BREAKERS**  **Choose the mode of travel that you would like the most for a journey.**  (a) Airways  (b) Waterways  (c) Railways  (d) Roadways **Give reasons for your preference.** |
| **02** | Introduce the poet with his life, career, and work.  The teacher read about the poem    Read the poem loudly and clearly with proper pause stress and intonation. | Listen carefully and note imp points, Title, and name of the author.    Listen carefully | *Section II*  **2.1 Song of the Open Road -*Walt Whitman (1819 to 1892)****was an American poet --*  (As per Textbook / Prepared PPT /Aids). |
| **03** | Ask students for the silent reading of the poem. | Students read the poem silently and guess the meaning of the poem and new words. | ***Afoot and light-hearted I take to the open road,***  ***….*** |
| **04** | Write/ Give/ Explain difficult and new words on board with their meanings. | Understand the meaning of words and note them down.  Listen carefully | List of difficult/new words.  ***Guess the meaning:*** |
| **05** | The teacher read the poem once again and explain it word and line by line. | Listen carefully and understand the answer. | Write difficult or important terms. |
| **06** | The teacher explains poetic devices and figures of speech in the whole poem. | Listen and note down. | *querulous criticisms***– Alliteration** |
| **07** | The teacher teaches and explains how to write appreciation with help of given points. | Answer the activities and note them down. | Type of poetry….  Stanza, rhyme scheme, Language and style etc. |
| **08** | Ask a few questions on the topic to check to understand. | Listen carefully and write the answer | • Afoot means…  Speaker of the poem ….  **whimper:**make a series of low, weak, sad cries, especially with fear and pain  **querulous:**complaining |
| **09** | Discuss all the Brainstorming Activities given on the topic. | Prepare poetry on a given topic. | **With the help of the following points, write a poetic appreciation of the poem ‘Song of the Open Road’.**  • About the poem/poet and the title  • The theme ---- |
| **10** | Explain Poetic creativity  (ii) Write four to six lines of Free Verse on the topic ‘The road that leads to my college’.    Solve writing skill activities given.  -          Blog Writing  -          Expansion of Idea | Understand and write. | **(iii) Write a blog on the following topic.**  (a) Man is free by birth.  **(iv) Expand the ideas suggested in the following lines:**  (a) All roads lead to Rome |
| **Activities / Homework**           Read the poet silently.           Take help from the sources available on the internet and make a list of proverbs and quotations  about ‘road.’           Read the poem ‘The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost. | | | |
| **Context / Reference**  A prescribed Coursebook is *English Yuvakbharati* (Compulsory English) Standard XII.  Important photos/short videos and PPT’s related topics. | | | |

**2.1 Song of the Open Road.**

**1. Ice Breakers**

 **Choose the mode of travel that you would like the most for a journey.**

(a)    Airways (b) Waterways (c) Railways (d) Roadways. Give reasons for your preference.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Mode of Travel Preferences for journey.** | **Reasons?** |
| (a) Railways | Cheaper, faster and alerts us if delays, no traffic problems, reduces pollution |
| (b) Roadways | Covers short and long distance has easy access, travel in own time, Can go and stop anywhere, most used and comfortable. |
| (c) Airways | One of the Safest modes, time-saving, covers a long distance, helpful in emergency. |
| (d) Waterways | Less used, not covered all places, fixed routes, not used for public transport. |

   **Discuss with your partner, the preparations you would like to make for the journey chosen.**

(a) Book your tickets.Or Check up your car before going on a journey

(b) Book your accommodation or stay.

(c) Pack important/useful things and luggage accordingly.

(d) Take all essential things like medicines, travel guide, phone power bank, Id proof, Passport, Visa, Currency, Eating items, camera etc.

 **Discuss the ways in which you would overcome the problems/hindrances/difficulties you face during your journey**.

(a) I will keep my mind calm.

(b) I will convey a message to a dear and near one about the problem.

(c) I will try to take local support.

(d) If any emergency I will contact the police or concerned authority.

    **During every journey we have to observe certain rules. Discuss your ideas for the journey without any restrictions. You can begin like this-**

(a) I would go alone / with selected friends/.............

(b) I would plan an adventure trip that includes all fun like trekking, surfing, and biking.

(c) I would like to explore new things without any rules. Only one rule enjoyment.

(d) I would go on a trip without time bonding.

**2. Discuss the title and what it means?**

*Song of the Open Road*has a symbolic meaning.

**a)  Song** -   represents happiness, joy, and excitement.

**b) Open Road -**

i)**a**place where people come together

ii) it’s apart from any status or social rank

iii) Used by both the poor and the rich

iv) Gives freedom

v) Mobility

vi)  A point to start over towards something new.

vii) Place of democracy

**3. About the Poet: Walt Whitman (1819 to 1892)**was an American poet, essayist, and journalist. Whitman is among the most influential poets in the American canon and is often called ‘The Father of Free Verse.’ He grew up in Huntington in a family with difficult economic status. His major work ‘Leaves of Grass’ was published in July 1855. His ‘O Captain! My Captain!’ a poem written on the death of Abraham Lincoln, is widely popular.

**4. About the Poem:** A road is something everyone uses, whether rich or poor and it forces all levels of people to associate with one another. The road signifies ‘mobility.’ One can take the road as a point to start over towards something new. Whitman talks about the people and places. He argues against staying in one place for too long, although the hospitality may be true.

**5. Aloud Reading of Poem:**

      (The Teacher read the poem with proper pause, stress, and intention.)

**6. Introduce the difficult words and terms: (English – English, English -Marathi)**

Afoot -first step

Light-hearted - happily

I - traveler, anyone, Walt Whitman.

Open road - free from burdens of cares

Long brown path - freedom image, earth

Henceforth - from now

Good fortune - good luck

Whimper - make a series of low, weak, sad cries, especially with fear and pain

Postpone - delay, waste of time

Indoor - daily life

Libraries - knowledge

Querulous - complaining, showing that one is irritated

Criticism - condemnation, blame to

Content - happy, satisfied

Constellations - groups of (stars) influential people

Suffice - enough, plenty of

Delicious - tasty

Swear - affirm, definitely

To get rid of - free from

**7. Reading of the Poem and Explanation:**

*Afoot and light-hearted I take to the open road,*

*Healthy, free, the world before me,*

*The long brown path before me leading wherever I choose.”*

**The First Stanza** starts with initial remarks of speakers that he sets his first step on the open road so light-heartedly. He also remarks that he has his own control on the journey. And only he will choose or select his own’ ‘long brown path’. The long brown path represents freedom. In the addition, the selected road is very suitable and unrestricted for him (speaker).

*Henceforth I ask not good-fortune, I myself am good-fortune*

*Henceforth I whimper no more, postpone no more, need nothing,*

*Done with indoor complaints, libraries, querulous criticisms,*

*Strong and content, I travel the open road.*

**The Second Stanza**continues with his confident remarks that he does not beg or expect *good- fortune* because he is the self-creator of his luck. He believes in himself so he does not give any excuses or demand help cry from anyone. He is so strong and positive about his journey so he needs nothing and he doesn’t have any single reason to postpone the journey. In his past, he was not happy within the four walls (maybe family life). He feels that it was like boundaries on his freedom. But now he is so happy to be on the open road (freedom).

*The earth, that is sufficient,*

*I do not want the constellations any nearer,*

*I know they are very well where they are,*

*I know they suffice for those who belong to them.*

**In the third stanza,**the speaker wants to live an isolated life. He does not want anyone’s company or the influence of near and dear people on him for his future journey.  He says for his life the earth is enough for him. He does not desire to be any closer to the stars (Other Influential people) because he is already a star (leading one). He knows that those groups of people (stars) are already fine where they are, and he does not wish to share his life’s journey under their influence. Here the speaker highlights his wish for free and independent life whilst living life (*i.e.* walking on the road). He does not belong to them because he does not need them. As he has chosen his own road.

*(Still, I carry my old delicious burdens,*

*I carry them, men and women, I carry them with me wherever I go,*

*I swear it is impossible for me to get rid of them,*

*I am fill’d with them, and I will fill them in return.)*

**The fourth stanza**is parentheses or an additional part of the poem. Here, the speaker confesses that he is not deprived of his own problems. On the contrary, he enjoys and carriesthem as a ***delicious burden***. He knows that getting rid of them is not possible because they are a part of his life so he carries them with him wherever he goes. He also declares those burdens cannot represent and delineate him as a loser. In addition to that, he accepts them and carries them with him wherever he goes. He continued a relationship with them (burdens) as part of his life.

**8. Check the Understanding:**(by asking oral or textual margin questions from the textbook).

***Guess the meaning:* • Afoot means** he starts his walk on his own foot.

1.     In these lines, Walt Whitman is simply stating happiness as he targets the road to go for a walk.

2.     He starts off by saying that he starts his walk on foot ("afoot"), with a **light heart**, which means, a happy heart that is free from the burdens of cares, stresses, and sorrows.

3.     He takes off on this walk, happy of heart, and rejoicing in the fact that he is healthy and able to do so.  Not everyone can just take off walking when they have the desire; he can, and rejoices in it.

4.    He also feels free--he has the freedom to take a walk and enjoy it if he desires.  As he goes on his walk, he is optimistic; he feels like he can achieve anything.

5.    He expresses this feeling through "the world is before me."  He feels like the world is his, there for him to enjoy.

6.    When he mentions "the long brown path before me**,**"he is simply referring to either the dirt road or a path.

7.    And the last part, "leading me wherever I choose,"indicates once again his optimism; he can go where he wants, and he does, in full health and happiness.

8. From now on, this time I select my own path and I am my destiny, freedom, joy, and good luck. I am not dependent on anyone.

9. Another example is, "Henceforth, I ask not good fortune, I myself am good fortune." This quote means that I am going to be self-sufficient and independent. From this onwards, the time he does not have to pray for good luck because he is the maker of his own luck.

10. Henceforth I whimper (cry) no more, postpone no more, need nothing, *The Open Road* by Walt Whitman is about being self-assured and independent. "Henceforth, I whimper no more, postpone no more, and need nothing." The author is saying that I am going to ask for nothing, complain, or waste time. He will no longer cry, no more waste time or delay because he is in need of nothing.

11***. Done with indoor complaints, libraries, querulous criticisms, Strong and content, I travel the open road.*** He is no longer happy with being enclosed inside; he is strong and happy to be on the uncluttered and free road.

**9. Brainstorming Activities:**

**(A1) (i) Pick out the lines showing that the poet is prepared to enjoy every moment of his journey.**

Afoot and light-hearted I take to the open road,

Healthy, free, the world before me,

The long brown path before me leading wherever I choose.

Strong and content I travel the open road.

I ask not good fortune, I myself am good fortune.

**(ii) By ‘old delicious burdens’ the poet means-**

(a) the luggage

(b) the food he carries

(c) the stress he bears during the travels

**(d) sweet memories of the past**

**(iii) The poet is a person who is free from all inhibitions. Discuss how the concept of ‘freedom’ is expressed in the poem.**

**Ans –**The main theme of the poem is freedom. A single step out of the door leads you towards freedom. And then you feel the true meaning of freedom in the sense of happiness. You will be far away from the burdens of care, stresses, and sorrows. Freedom gives happiness, rejoice, and choose to take a walk and enjoy desires.

**(A2) (i) Following are the activities of the poet related to his journey on the road.**

Divide them into two parts ‘activities the poet will practice’ and ‘activities he will not practice’.

(a) Walking along the road though he does not know where it reaches

(b) Complaining about the discomforts during the journey

(c) Postponing the journey

(d) Praying for good fortune

(e) Carrying the fond memories of the good people

(f) Creating contacts with famous and influential people

(g) Striving to achieve high and bright success

(h) Reflecting and developing his own ‘self’

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activities the poet will Practice** | **Activities he will not Practice** |
| (a) Walking along the road though he does not know where it reaches | (c) Postponing the journey |
| (d) Praying for good fortune | (b) Complaining about the discomforts during the journey |
| (e) Carrying the fond memories of the good people | (f) Creating contacts with famous and influential people |
| (h) Reflecting and developing his own ‘self’ | (g) Striving to achieve high and bright success |

**(ii) Write down the traits the poet exhibit through the following lines. One is done for you.**

(a) Henceforth, I ask for no good fortune-I myself am good fortune - **Self-confidence**

(b) Henceforth, I whimper no more, postpone no more, need nothing- **Courageous**

(c) I do not want the constellations any nearer- **Liberty**

(d) I swear it is impossible for me to get rid of them- **Acceptance**

(e) I am filled with them – I will fill them in return- **Connection, Involvement**

**(iii) *'Healthy, free, the world before me.*Express your views regarding the above line.**

1. The traveler starts his walk without burdens on the road of life.
2. He starts his walk in a happy mood, and he feels healthy and able to do so.
3. He also feels free- he has the freedom to take a walk and enjoy it.  Walking on the open road he feels like he can achieve anything because all world is before him as a choice.

**(A3) (i) The poet has used many describing words such as 'healthy' in this poem. Make a list and classify them as –**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| (a)  For the world | Healthy, free |
| (b) For himself | Hearted |
| (c) For the road | Open, the long Brown path |

**(ii) Free Verse:** Free Verse is poetry that does not rhyme or have a regular rhythm.

**The features of Free Verse are:** It is a literary device that is free from the limits of a fixed meter or rhythm, does not rhyme with fixed forms, and still it provides an artistic expression. In this way, the poet can give his own shape to a poem as he desires and can use various poetic devices to create the effect he considers suitable for the piece.

     As Free Verse gives greater freedom for choosing words and conveying their meanings to readers, it is free from the artificiality of a typical poetic expression. This technique is commonly used in modern poetry.

**Remember -☺**

(a) Even though Free Verse requires no meter, rhyme, or other traditional poetic methods, it is the use of core pattern of sounds, the choice of precise words, and their chosen places are the factors that attribute the Free Verse, its lyrical or rhythmic beauty.

(b) Free Verse is totally different from ‘Blank Verse’ which essentially has to occur in iambic pentameter. Blank verse is poetry written with regular metrical but unrhymed lines. It is described as 'the most common form of English poetry which has been influential since the 16th century.

**(iii) There are certain words that are repeated in the poem. For example, ‘no more’ (Line 7). Find out other similar expressions. Explain the effect they have created in the poem.**

Ans – **Repetition**

          1. Henceforth I ask not good-fortune, I myself am good-fortune,

          2. Henceforth I whimper no more, postpone no more, and need nothing.

          3. I know they are very well where they are, I know they suffice for those who belong to them.

          4. I carry them, men and women, I carry them with me wherever I go.

          5. I am fill’d with them, and I will fill them in return.

**Effects:** There are certain words that are repeated in the poem because it creates an impact on readers and highlights the poet’s thoughts.

**(iv) The use of the personal pronoun 'I' is evident and prominent in this poem. Give reasons.**

Ans – Song*of the Open Road* is narrated in the form of a first-person speaker. The use of the personal pronoun 'I' is evident and prominent in this poem. Because the pronoun ‘I’ in the poem stands for any traveler, the reader, all humans, and Whitman.

**10. Poetic Appreciation of the Poem:**

**1. Title** - Song*of the Open Road*

**2. Poet -** The poem is written by an American poet, essayist, and journalist Walt Whitman. He is known as ‘The Father of Free Verse.’

**3. Theme -**    It is an ode or song of freedom, happiness, a celebration of democratic life, and optimism. These major themes of this poem are connected with the symbol ‘Road’.

**4. Poetic style -** The poem is written in the form of free verse; the lines are unrhymed and of varying lengths.

**5. The language and Poetic devices –** *Song of the Open Road* is narrated by a first-person speaker. The pronoun ‘I’ in the poem stands for any traveler, the reader, all humans, and Whitman. Metaphorical and symbolic language is used in the poem. There is no rhyme scheme in this poem. This poem is in free verse. The poetic devices and figure speech like repetition, metaphor, symbolism, paradox, and inversion are notably used in **the poem.**

**6. Special features -** The poem is very symbolic. The road in the poem does not mean only the road to travel. The poet wants to suggest the road of life. The tone of the poem is very vibrant and joyful.

**7. Message, values, morals –** The poem is about being confident and independent. The poem messages us to live a free life. We have to give ourselves permission to do good things.

**8. Your opinion -** I like the poem because it gives the clear and important message that you are the maker of your own luck and destiny. You are your good- fortune, just walk freely on the open road of life without crying. A single step leads you towards happiness and burden free life.

**10. Write four to six lines of Free Verse on the topic ‘The road that leads to my colleagues’. Express that it is the road to knowledge and a bright future. You may begin like this:**

**‘The road that leads to my colleagues’**

*The road that leads to my college,*

*Where I meet friends and Knowledge.*

*One helps me to live,*

*One teaches me how to survive.*

*Every day I tread with the bag of books,*

*knowledge, and lesson of life that I took.*

*I have to keep my pace,*

*Doesn’t matter, how hard and long.*

*I keep the book handy*

*and walk studiously in the rain, winter, and sandy.*

*Each step offers me success,*

*Prepare me for bright future awareness.*

*The road of college,*

*shows me the world, the barn of knowledge.*

*hobbies, luxury, value, and all*

*not far, here on a call.*

*The road that leads to my college,*

*Where I meet friends and Knowledge.* (Written by – Dr. Uday Purandar Shirgave)

**रस्त्चे गाणे**

**11. Translation of the Poem:**

**मुक्त रस्त्याचे गाणे**

एक पाऊल आंनदी मनाने  
मी निवडले मुक्त रस्त्याचे जिने  
निरोगी, मुक्त रस्त्याची धरून वाट  
जिकडे जाईन मी तीच नवी पहाट

तपकिरी (लाल) रस्ता, मी  एक फिरस्ता.

आता, चांगल्या नशिबाची मागणी नको,

नशीबवान आहे मीच आता विनवणी नको,  
आता ,जीवनातून दुःख झाले बेदखल  
आजचे काम आजच, नाही उद्याची चालढकल.  
गुंडळल्या घरच्या तक्रारी , वाद विवाद

धीटाने,आनंदाने, गाणार मुक्त रस्त्याचा संवाद

पुरेशी आहे ही वाट आणि वसुंधरा  
नको दडपण, नको प्रभाव आणि खोटा पसारा  
असू दे त्यांना तिथेच त्यांच्याच अंमलात

मी आहे स्वांत्र्याचे गाणे गात.

(प्रवास मुक्त रस्त्याचा जरी केला एकला

सुख दुःखाच्या त्या आठवणीने नाही थकाला  
त्या सुंदर आठवणी आहेत पाठीवरी  
सुटका नसे त्यातून माझी , जपल्या त्या अंतरी  
परिपूर्ण करतील मला, देतील नव्या प्रवासाची उभारी… देतील नव्या प्रवासाची उभारी…)                               (Translated by – Dr. Uday Purandar Shirgave)



Dr. Uday Purandar Shirgave .