

Sunday



Sundays are special days of the week – days when we can spend our time as we like, doing things we like to do. Let us read a poem that compares Sundays with the other days of the week.

The weekdays come so fast and **thick**—
How do they travel, to reach so quick?
But why does Sunday take so long,
Behind the others trudging on?

The weekdays are an unkind lot:
To go back home they **have no thought**.
But why is Sunday so pursued,
That she stays half the time she should?

The weekdays come with such dull, **long faces**,
No child can stand such **airs and graces**.
But when at weekends I get up,
There's Sunday with her face **lit up**.



Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941) was born in Kolkata. He started writing poems when he was eight and had his first book published when he was just sixteen. He was not only a talented poet, but also wrote plays, stories and novels. He painted and composed music too. He started an open-air school at Shantiniketan which is now an international university named Visva-Bharati. In 1913, he received the Nobel Prize in Literature for *Gitanjali*.



thick: (here) many in number **have no thought:** are not interested in doing so **long faces:** sad, gloomy faces
airs and graces: proud ways and bad manners **lit up:** used to describe a person's expression when they become happy

Make connections

Answer the following questions based on the poem.

- Here is a table to show the differences between weekdays and Sunday. Read the information given and complete the table.

Weekdays	Sunday
Weekdays come fast.	Sunday hardly stays – she seems to stay for just half the time she should.
Weekdays have dull, long faces.	

- Read these lines and answer the questions that follow.

- The weekdays come so fast and thick—
How do they travel, to reach so quick?
But why does Sunday take so long,
Behind the others trudging on?*

- Is the speaker happy or annoyed that weekdays come fast and thick?
- Which words in these lines show that Sunday comes slower than the other days of the week?
- What kind of week would the speaker like?

- The weekdays are an unkind lot:
To go back home they have no thought.
But why is Sunday so pursued
That she stays half the time she should?*

- Why does the speaker think that weekdays are an ‘unkind’ lot?
- What would the speaker like the weekdays to do?
- Which word in these lines is similar in meaning with ‘to be chased’?

- There’s Sunday with her face lit up.*

How does the speaker contrast Sunday’s appearance with that of the weekdays?

- Which day of the week do you like best? Why?



Appreciation

Personification

To make a poem more interesting, a poet sometimes gives human qualities to things that are not human. This is called **personification**.

In the poem you just read, the poet says that the weekdays travel fast but Sunday just trudges along. Here, the poet makes the days of the week seem like people by saying that they 'travel' and 'trudge'.

1. List three other examples from the poem where the poet has described weekdays as if they were people.
2. Write about each of the things shown in the pictures as if you were writing about a person. Two have been done for you as examples.



The sun greeted me this morning.



The obedient car stopped at the traffic signal.

a.



b.



c.



d.



e.



f.

