

Appreciation of the Poem

English Yuvakbharati

Class 12- Maharashtra Board



Song of the Open Road- By Walt Whitman

About the Poet

The poem is written by the American poet **Walt Whitman**, who is also known as the *Father of Free Verse* because he did not follow traditional rhyme patterns in his poetry.

Poetic Style

The poem is written in **free verse**, which means it has **no fixed rhyme scheme** or regular rhythm. The poet expresses his thoughts freely, just like the open road he describes.

Theme / Central Idea

The main theme of the poem is **freedom, independence, and self-reliance**. The poet wants to walk freely on the open road and enjoy life with happiness and confidence. He believes that true

freedom comes from choosing your own path and living life on your own terms.

Favourite Line

“Still here I carry my own delicious burden.”

Poetic Devices

Walt Whitman uses several poetic devices, such as:

- **Repetition:** “Henceforth I ask not good fortune, I myself am good fortune.”
- **Personification:** “The long brown path before me leading wherever I choose.”
- **Inversion:** “Afoot and light-hearted I take to the open road.”

Special Feature

The poem is a **dramatic monologue**, where the poet openly shares his personal thoughts, feelings, and philosophy of life. The free verse style makes the poem natural and conversational.

Moral / Message

The poem inspires us to be **free, brave, and independent**. It motivates us to move forward in life confidently and explore the world with a positive attitude. It teaches us that life becomes beautiful when we take responsibility for our own journey.

My Opinion

In my opinion, this is a very inspiring and motivational poem. It encourages us to take our own path, stay confident, and live life freely without fear.

Quote

“Freedom is the oxygen of the soul.”

Indian Weavers -By Sarojini Naidu

About the Poet

This poem is written by the famous Indian poetess **Sarojini Naidu**, who is also known as the *Nightingale of India*. Her poems are known for their melody, simplicity, and deep meaning.

Poetic Style

The poem is not written in free verse. Each stanza follows a clear **rhyming scheme**, which gives the poem a musical flow. The style is simple and conversational, making it easy to read, understand, and remember.

Theme / Central Idea

The poem describes the **three major stages of human life — birth, marriage, and death**. Each stage is symbolized by the different garments woven by the weavers at different times of the day. Through this, the

poet gives a deeper meaning to the everyday work of weavers.

Favourite Line

“Why do you weave garments so bright?”

Poetic Devices

The poet has used many poetic devices such as:

- **Interrogation:** “Why do you weave a garment so gay?”
- **Alliteration:** “Weavers, weaving at break of day”
- **Imagery:** “Blue as the wing of a halcyon wild”

These devices make the poem lively, colourful, and expressive.

Special Feature

A special feature of the poem is its **question-and-answer pattern** in each stanza. This makes the poem interactive and helps us clearly understand the deeper meaning behind each stage of life.

Moral / Message

The poem teaches us that **birth, youth, marriage, and death are natural stages of life.** They are unavoidable and must be accepted with peace. The poem encourages us to appreciate every phase of life without fear.

My Opinion

In my opinion, this poem gives a beautiful and thoughtful message about human life. It is simple, meaningful, and filled with symbolism, which makes it an enjoyable and memorable poem.

Quote

“Life becomes meaningful when we embrace every stage with courage and acceptance.”

The Inchcape Rock - By Robert Southey

About the Poet

This poem is written by the British poet Robert Southey. He served as the Poet Laureate of England from 1813 to 1843.

Poetic Style

The poem is not written in free verse. It follows a regular rhyming pattern and uses short, rhythmic stanzas that create a storytelling flow.

Theme / Central Idea

The main theme of the poem is that bad actions always bring bad results. The poet narrates the story of the good Abbot who tied a bell on the dangerous Inchcape Rock to warn sailors. But a jealous pirate, Ralph the Rover, removed the bell out of spite. Later, due to his own wicked act, Ralph's ship crashes against the same

rock, and he loses his life. This shows that evil deeds come back to punish the wrongdoer.

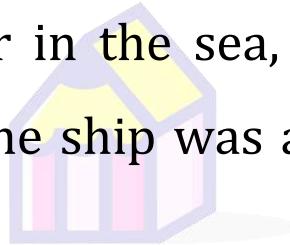
Favourite Line

“Down sunk the bell with a gurgling sound.”

Poetic Devices

The poem uses many poetic devices such as:

- **Alliteration:** “Without either sign or sound of their shock.”
- **Repetition:** “No stir in the sea, no stir in the air.”
- **Personification:** “The ship was as still as she could be.”



Special Feature

This poem is a ballad. It is written in a narrative form like a story. The rhyme, rhythm and short stanzas make it musical and easy to recite. It creates strong imagery of the sea, the sailors, and the danger of the rock.

Moral / Message

The poem gives the message that “**As you sow, so shall you reap.**” It teaches us that evil intentions always lead to destruction. If we harm others, that harm eventually returns to us.

My Opinion

I like this poem because of its strong moral lesson. It teaches us that we must always do good if we want good to come back to us. The poem clearly shows that our actions shape our future.

Quote

The echo of our deeds always finds its way back to us.

Have You Earned Your Tomorrow

- By Edgar Guest

About the Poet:

This poem is written by Edgar Guest, an American poet known as the *People's Poet* because of his simple, inspirational and emotional writing style.

Poetic Style:

The poem is not written in free verse. It follows a regular rhyming pattern. The poet uses simple language and a question-based structure to make the reader reflect.

Theme / Central Idea:

The central idea of the poem is self-reflection. The poet wants us to think about our daily actions and ask ourselves, "*Have I helped someone today?*" The poem inspires us to be kind, thoughtful, and helpful to others so that our day becomes meaningful.

Favourite Line:

“Have you earned your tomorrow?”

This line is short but powerful. It makes us pause and think about whether we have lived our day in a worthy way.

Poetic Devices:

The poem includes many poetic devices such as:

- **Interrogation:** “Have you earned your tomorrow?”
- **Alliteration:** “And its toiling time is through.”
- **Synecdoche:** “In a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said.” (Here, *heart* represents a person.)

Special Feature:

Each stanza is written in the form of questions, which makes the reader think deeply about their actions.

The tone of the poem is soft, encouraging, and motivational rather than strict or forceful.

Moral / Message:

The poem gives a strong moral — we should be kind, helpful, and considerate towards others. Doing good for someone makes our life meaningful. If we do good today, we truly “earn” our tomorrow.

My Opinion:

I like this poem because of its simple words, positive tone, and powerful message. It encourages us to be selfless and to live with purpose. It reminds us that small acts of kindness can change someone's day.

Quote

A meaningful today is the foundation of a better tomorrow.

Father Returning Home -By Dilip Chitre

About the Poet:

This poem is written by Dilip Chitre, a well-known Indian poet, translator, and filmmaker. He received the Sahitya Akademi Award for his contribution to literature.

Poetic Style:

The poem is written in free verse. The poet does not follow any rhyming scheme, which makes the poem feel natural and realistic—just like the father's daily routine.

Theme / Central Idea:

The main theme of the poem is loneliness, isolation, and the mechanical life of modern society. The poet highlights how busy lifestyles create emotional distance within families. The father's daily routine reflects the silent suffering of many elderly people.

Favourite Line:

“Like a word dropped from a long sentence.”

This line beautifully shows how the father feels ignored and unimportant, as if he no longer fits into the flow of life around him.

Poetic Devices:

The poet uses several poetic devices such as:

- **Alliteration:** “My father travels on the late evening train.”
- **Simile:** “Like a word dropped from a long sentence.”
- **Repetition:** “Man’s estrangement from a man-made world.”



Special Feature:

The poem is autobiographical. It presents a realistic picture of a father's routine and emotions. The tone is serious, sensitive, and emotional, which makes readers empathize with the father's loneliness.

Moral / Message:

The poem teaches us to care for, respect, and emotionally support our elders. It reminds us that parents silently struggle and sacrifice for their families, and they deserve love and attention.

My Opinion:

I find this poem very touching and meaningful. It makes us realise the unseen hardships of elderly people, especially fathers, who often hide their sadness and continue working for the sake of their family.

Quote:

“Elders don’t complain—they just wait for someone to notice their silence.”

Money - By William H. Davies

About the Poet:

This poem is written by William H. Davies, a Welsh poet. Although he was born into a rich family, he chose a simple and poor lifestyle to understand the true meaning of happiness.

Poetic Style:

The poem is written in free verse. It does not follow any fixed rhyming scheme. The style is simple, conversational, and easy to understand.

Theme / Central Idea:

The central idea of the poem is that money is not the key to happiness. The poet compares his life as a rich man and as a poor man. When he had money, he was surrounded by false friends. But when he became poor, he discovered real peace, joy, and genuine relationships.

Favourite Line:

“Wives hum like a bee.”

This line beautifully shows the natural happiness and contentment found in simple, poor households.

Poetic Devices:

The poet has used several poetic devices:

- **Simile:** “Then I felt like a child that holds a trumpet.”
- **Repetition:** “When I had Money, Money O!”
- **Hyperbole:** “Came knocking all day at my door.”
(Shows how people crowded around him when he was rich.)

Special Feature:

The poem is short but meaningful. The poet uses strong contrast between rich life and poor life to highlight where true happiness lies.

Moral / Message:

The poem teaches us that **money cannot buy real happiness, peace, or genuine relationships.** True joy comes from love, simplicity, and honest companionship.

My / Opinion:

I like this poem because it gives an important life lesson in very simple words. It shows that real happiness does not come from wealth but from meaningful human connections.



Quote:

“Money can't buy happiness.”

She Walks in Beauty - By George Gordon Byron

About the Poet:

This poem is written by George Gordon Byron, popularly known as Lord Byron. He was one of the greatest poets of the Romantic Age and was admired for his expressive and emotional poetry.

Poetic Style:

The poem is not written in free verse. It follows a regular rhyming pattern and has a smooth, musical rhythm. The poem is lyrical in nature, which makes it pleasant to read and recite.

Theme / Central Idea:

The central idea of the poem is the perfect combination of **outer beauty and inner goodness**. The poet describes a woman whose physical grace is balanced by her pure thoughts, calm nature, and gentle heart. Her

beauty shines because it comes from innocence and inner peace.

Favourite Line:

“She walks in beauty, like the night.”

This line shows how the poet compares the woman's beauty to a calm, starry night—soft, peaceful, graceful, and beautifully balanced with both light and darkness.

Poetic Devices:

The poet uses many poetic devices to highlight the woman's beauty:

- **Simile:** “She walks in beauty, like the night.”
- **Alliteration:** “Day denies.”
- **Imagery:** Byron uses images of light, darkness, stars, and softness to create a vivid picture of her beauty.
- **Contrast:** Light and dark elements blend perfectly in her appearance and personality.



Special Feature:

The poem is short but filled with rich imagery and emotions. It celebrates beauty in a gentle and respectful way, focusing not only on appearance but also on moral purity and inner harmony.

Moral / Message:

The poem teaches us to appreciate both **outer beauty** and **inner qualities**. True beauty comes from kindness, innocence, and a peaceful soul.

My Opinion:

I like this poem because of its soft, lyrical tone and elegant description of beauty. It helped me understand that real beauty is a harmony of looks, thoughts, and character.

Quote:

“Outer beauty pleases the eye, but inner beauty captures the heart.”

Small Towns and Rivers -By Mamang Dai

About the Poet:

This poem is written by Mamang Dai, a well-known poet, journalist, and novelist from Arunachal Pradesh. Her works are deeply rooted in the culture, nature, and traditions of the Northeast.

Poetic Style:

The poem is written in free verse. It has no fixed rhyming scheme, which allows the poet to express her thoughts freely and naturally. The tone is calm, reflective, and spiritual.

Theme / Central Idea:

The main theme of the poem is the deep connection between people, their land, nature, and traditions. The poet shows how rivers, forests, and small towns play an important role in shaping identity, memories, and

beliefs. The poem also expresses the idea that life is temporary, but nature continues to live forever.

Favourite Line:

“Small towns always remind me of death.”

This line is simple yet powerful. It shows how deeply the poet connects emotions, memories, and mortality with the environment around her.

Poetic Devices:

The poet has used several poetic devices, such as:

- Imagery:** “The river has a soul.”
- Metaphor:** “The river knows the immortality of water.”
- Personification:** “The forest that eats up stones.”

These devices help create a strong visual and emotional connection with nature.

Special Feature:

The poem uses nature as a symbol to express human feelings and spiritual beliefs. It blends landscape,

memory, culture, and philosophy in a very thoughtful way. The poem reflects tribal wisdom and their deep respect for nature.

Moral / Message:

The poem teaches us to respect nature, traditions, and our cultural roots. It reminds us that life is temporary, but nature is eternal. Everything—life, death, rivers, forests—is connected in one cycle.

My Opinion:

I like this poem because it shows how closely human life is linked with nature. It also made me realize the importance of protecting our environment and valuing our traditions.

Quote:

“Nature is not a place to visit; it is home.”

All Poems Revision

<p>Poem: Song of the Open Road Poet: Walt Whitman Rhyme Scheme: Free verse FOS: Alliteration, Repetition, Metaphor, Paradox, etc. Theme: Freedom, optimism, self-discovery. Message: We must take charge of our own life.</p>	<p>Poem: Indian Weavers Poet: Sarojini Naidu Rhyme Scheme: aabb FOS: Alliteration, Metaphor, Imagery, Symbolism, etc. Theme: Cycle of life shown through weaving. Message: The poem symbolizes three stages of human life.</p>
<p>Poem: The Inchcape Rock Poet: Robert Southey Rhyme Scheme: aabb FOS: Alliteration, Repetition, Simile, Metaphor, etc. Theme: Evil deeds bring destructive results. Message: As you sow, so shall you reap.</p>	<p>Poem: Have You Earned Your Tomorrow Poet: Edgar Guest Rhyme Scheme: aabb FOS: Alliteration, Repetition, etc. Theme: Self-reflection; kindness in daily life. Message: Life is meaningful only when we help others.</p>
<p>Poem: Father Returning Home Poet: Dilip Chitre Rhyme Scheme: Free verse FOS: Alliteration, Repetition, Simile, Metaphor, Paradox, etc. Theme: Loneliness of an elderly person. Message: We must value and respect our elders.</p>	<p>Poem: Money Poet: William H. Davies Rhyme Scheme: aabb FOS: Alliteration, Simile, Repetition, Inversion, etc. Theme: Effect of money on human behavior. Message: Money is not real happiness; true happiness lies in relationships.</p>
<p>Poem: She Walks in Beauty Poet: George Gordon Byron Rhyme Scheme: abababa FOS: Simile, Metaphor, Alliteration, Repetition, Personification, etc. Theme: Praise of inner and outer beauty. Message: True beauty comes from purity of mind and heart.</p>	<p>Poem: Small Towns and Rivers Poet: Mamang Dai Rhyme Scheme: Free verse FOS: Alliteration, Repetition, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, etc. Theme: Preservation and conservation of natural elements. Message: We must protect and conserve nature.</p>

Board Exam Poem Appreciation – Year-wise List 😊

2021 July – 2.6 (Money)

2022 March – 2.4 (Have you Earned your tomorrow?)

2022 July – 2.5 (Father Returning Home)

2023 Feb – 2.7 (She Walks in Beauty)

2023 July – 2.6 (Money)



2024 Feb – 2.3 (The Inchcape Rock)

2024 July – 2.5 (Father Returning Home)

2025 Feb – 2.4 (Have you Earned your tomorrow?)

2025 July – 2.4 (Have you Earned your tomorrow?)

2026 –

★ BEST FORMAT TO WRITE APPRECIATION OF A POEM ★

1. TITLE (IN CAPITAL LETTERS)

Write the poem's name in ALL CAPS.

Example: **HAVE YOU EARNED YOUR TOMORROW**

2. ABOUT THE POET

1–2 lines about the poet's nationality, achievements, or writing style.



3. RHYME SCHEME / FREE VERSE

Mention whether the poem has a rhyme scheme or is written in free verse.

If rhyme scheme exists, write the exact scheme (aabb, ababab, etc.).

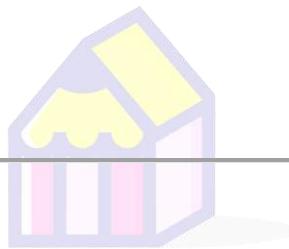
4. THEME / CENTRAL IDEA

Write 2–3 lines explaining:

- What the poem is about
 - What message the poet wants to convey
 - The main feelings or ideas
-

5. FAVOURITE LINES

Write the line(s) you like most from the poem and *why* you like them (1 line).



6. POETIC DEVICES

Mention 2–4 devices used in the poem:

- Simile
- Metaphor
- Alliteration
- Personification
- Imagery

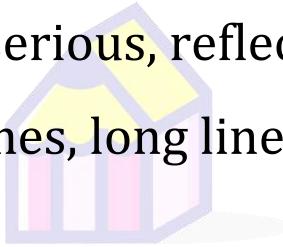
- Repetition

...etc.

7. SPECIAL FEATURES

Write unique points such as:

- Use of imagery
- Use of questions
- Contrast
- Tone (emotional, serious, reflective, humorous)
- Structure (short lines, long lines, stanzas)



8. MESSAGE / VALUES / MORAL

Write the lesson the poem teaches.

2–3 lines showing what readers learn from the poem.

9. YOUR OPINION (WHY I LIKE THE POEM)

Write 1–2 lines explaining why you personally like the poem.



BONUS: END WITH A QUOTE

End with a meaningful inspirational quote related to the poem's message.



YouTube Channel

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