

*I'm leaving now to slay the foe---
 Fight the battles, high and low,
 I'm leaving, Mother, hear me go!
 Please wish me luck today.
 I've grown my wings, I want to fly,
 Seize my victories where they lie,
 I'm going, Mom, but please don't cry—
 Just let me find my way.
 I want to see and touch and hear,
 Though there are dangers, there are fears.
 I'll smile my smiles and dry my tears---
 Please let me speak my say.
 I'm off to find my world, my dreams,
 Carve my niche, sew my seams,
 Remember, as I sail my streams-----
 I'll love you, all the way.*

-Brook Mueller

Glossary

to slay to win over, (કોઈ)નું પર વિજય મેળવવો *foe* enemy, મુશ્કેલી *battle* fight/conflict *to seize* to take hold of
carve make *niche* specific place *fear* terror *sew seams* mould oneself *to be off* to leave *to dry tears*
to console oneself *victory* winning

Comprehension

C.1 Answer these questions.

- 1) What did you feel while reciting this poem? Does this poem give you warning or encouragement? How? _____
- 2) What is the young person leaving for? _____
- 2) What does the poet request his mother? _____
- 3) What does "I've grown my wings" mean? _____

- 4) Find out pairs of rhyming words from the poem. _____
- 5) Find out the antonym of 'defeat'? _____
- 6) What is the synonym of 'terror'? _____
- 7) Who is the poet talking to? _____

C.2 Here are some expressions and their meanings. Join them appropriately. Write the alphabet in the bracket.

Expressions		Meanings
I'm leaving to slay the foe.	()	a. I'll fight against every small and big problems.
I've grown my wings.	()	b. Let me tell the world what I want to tell.
Let me find my way.	()	c. Throughout my journey
Let me speak my say.	()	d. I'll make my own place in this world.
I'm off to find my world.	()	e. I'm determined to win over all the obstacles.
As I sail my streams.	()	f. I'll shape myself.
I'll smile my smiles and dry my tears.	()	g. Don't guide me. I'll struggle and search my path.
Carve my niche.	()	h. Now I'm strong enough to walk on my own.
Fight the battles high and low.	()	i. I'm on my search for what I like.
Sew my seams.	()	j. I'll deal with my feelings.

C.3 Tick mark True(T) or False(F).

- The poet is strong enough to fight against the world. TF
- The poet is not afraid of any kind of terror. TF
- The poet would request his mother to bless him. TF
- The phrase 'to be off' means to leave for. TF
- The poet requests his mother to stand by him in his failures. TF

C.4 (a) Translate this poem into Gujarati keeping its form as a poem.

(b) What would you tell your mother or father when you want to be independent.

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