

CHAPTER – LEISURE

SUBJECT - ENGLISH

2025-26




LEISURE (W.H.DAVIES)

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

MEANINGS

- The poet is talking about how modern life is so busy and full of worries that people do not have time to pause and enjoy the beauty of nature.
- “What is this life if, full of care, / We have no time to stand and stare?”
→ The poet says life becomes meaningless if we are always worried and occupied, with no time to stop and appreciate the world around us.

MEANINGS

- **“No time to stand beneath the boughs / And stare as long as sheep or cows.”**
→ Unlike animals that calmly rest under trees and enjoy their surroundings, humans rush through life without stopping to experience peace.
- **“No time to see, when woods we pass, / Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.”**
→ We pass through nature in such a hurry that we don’t notice small but beautiful things—like squirrels carefully hiding nuts in the grass.
-  **In short:** The lines mean that a life without time for rest, observation, and appreciation of nature is **empty and incomplete**.

WORD MEANINGS

- **Care** → worries, troubles, responsibilities
- **Stand and stare** → to pause and look around calmly, without hurry
- **Boughs** → branches of a tree
- **Sheep or cows** → animals that spend time peacefully grazing and resting
- **Woods** → forest or group of trees
- **Squirrels** → small animals that collect and store nuts
- **Hide** → to put something in a secret or safe place so it cannot be seen
- **Grass** → green plants that cover the ground