

DATE : 8/5/20

SUBJECT : ENG LITERATURE (HONEY COMB)

CLASS : VII

POEM -4 CHIVVY

BY MICHAEL ROSEN

THEME OF THE POEM: In this poem, the poet points out a series of instructions given by the grown-ups and leaves a question to elders why can't they keep their suggestions to themselves in regard to the feelings of the small kids, who feel irritated by their elders, who always instruct them what to do or not to do.

STANZA WISE EXPLANATION

STANZA – 1

Grown-ups say things like:

Speak up

Don't talk with your mouth full

Don't stare; Don't point

Don't pick your nose

Explanation : In this stanza the poet Michael Rosen, opens with a long list of instructions. In everyone's childhood, these instructions are being given by their adults to their young ones. Speak up, don't talk while your mouth is full of food, don't pick your nose, don't stare and so on are just a few examples.

STANZA -2

Sit up; Say please; Less noise

Shut the door behind you

Don't drag your feet

Haven't you got a hankie? Take

your hands out of your pockets

Explanation : In the second stanza of the poem, the poet continues to put an emphasis on how the young children are directed to act in accordance to the instructions issued by the adults, like say please, make less noise, shut the door, don't drag your feet, take your hands out of your pockets

and so on. Each and every activity of the young child is administered and put under the surveillance of the grown-ups.

STANZA -3

Pull your socks up;

Stand up straight, Say thank you;

Don't interrupt

No one thinks you're funny

Take your elbows off the table

Can't you make your own

Mind up about anything

Explanation: The final couplet of the poem shows that perhaps the young child has grown-up. However, the adults around him continue to reprimand him but this time for a different reason. The child is unable to decide anything for himself. He is not certain about anything. It's quite ironical as the entire childhood of this child was spent blindly following the instructions.

WORKING WITH THE POEM

Q1. Discuss these questions in small groups before you answer them.

- (i) When is a grown-up likely to say this?
Don't talk with your mouth full.

Ans. A grown up is likely to say this when children start talking in between the meal with food in their mouth.

- (ii). When are you likely to be told this?

Say thank you.

Ans. We are likely to be told to say thank you, when someone helps us or we receive something.

- (iii). When do we think an adult would say this?

No one thinks you are funny.

Ans. When children act weird to gain the attention, then an adult say – No one thinks you are funny.

Q2. The last two lines of the poem are not prohibitions or instructions. What is the adult now asking the child to do? Do you think the poet is suggesting that this is unreasonable? Why?

Ans. The adults keep on advising the child what he should not do. But in the last two lines, the adult is expecting the child to make decisions for himself. The poet is suggesting that this is unreasonable because the young child has not been trained to use his mind. He has only been trained to follow the instructions given by adults.

Q3. Why do you think grown-ups say the kind of things mentioned in the poem? Is it important that they teach children good manners, and how to behave in public?

Ans. The grown-ups say such kind of things to their children in order to teach them good manners. They want their children to be responsible citizen and well mannered in public. So that they learn how to behave properly in the society, at home and with their elders and youngsters. Our elders are our teachers and we can learn a lot from their experiences.

Q4. If you had to make rules for grown-ups to follow, what would you say? Make at least five such rules.

Ans. I would make rules like-

i. Respect the views of youngsters.

ii. Keep a friendly atmosphere at home and in the neighbourhood.

iii. Don't drink and smoke.

iv. Spend time with the children. Don't spend too much time on mobiles.
