



B. Reading

Trees

Trees are the kindest things I know,
They do no harm, they simply grow
And spread a shade for sleepy cows,
And gather birds among their boughs...

They give us fruit in leaves above,
And wood to make our houses of,
And leaves to burn on Halloween
And in the Spring new buds of green.

They are the first when day's begun
To touch the beams of morning sun,
They are the last to hold the light
When evening changes into night.

And when a moon floats on the sky
They hum a drowsy lullaby
Of sleepy children long ago...
Trees are the kindest things I know.

- Harry Behn



Glossary

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| boughs (n): | branches (literary use) |
| Halloween (n): | the night of 31 October when children dress in special clothes and people try to frighten each other |
| beams (n): | rays |
| drowsy (adj): | sleepy |
| lullaby (n): | a song we sing to help a child fall asleep |

I. Answer the following questions:

1. Who is 'I' in this poem?
2. What do trees give us?
3. What is the tree compared to in this poem?
4. What is the poet's attitude towards trees? Pick out lines or words that describe his attitude.
5. Do you like trees? Give reasons for your views.
6. What is the most touching stanza in the poem? Why do you think so?

II. Try to write a parallel poem about an animal you like. You may follow the structure of the above poem and start like this:

Cows are the useful animals I know
They give us milk and dung, you know.
.....

Project

Collect the pictures of poisonous, and non-poisonous snakes. Collect related news items from newspapers and paste them on a chart. Make a presentation in the class. Later, display it on the wall magazine.

Share this joke

A man walks into a shop and sees a cute little dog. He asks the shopkeeper, "Does your dog bite?" The shopkeeper says, "No, my dog does not bite."

The man tries to play with the dog and the dog bites him.

"Abbaa!" He says, "I thought you said your dog does not bite!"

The shopkeeper replies, "That is not my dog!"