

Lesson 4

Peace in Literature

A. Read the following poem and try to understand the meaning.

Peace

George Herbert

Sweet Peace, where dost thou dwell? I humbly crave,
Let me once know.

I sought thee in a secret cave,
And ask'd, if Peace were there,
A hollow wind did seem to answer, No:
Go seek elsewhere.

I did; and going did a rainbow note:
Surely, thought I,
This is the lace of Peace's coat:
I will search out the matter.
But while I looked the clouds immediately
Did break and scatter.

Then went I to a garden and did spy
A gallant flower,
The crown-imperial: Sure, said I,
Peace at the root must dwell.
But when I digged, I saw a worm devour
What showed so well.

At length I met a rev'rend good old man;
Whom when for Peace
I did demand, he thus began:
There was a Prince of old
At Salem dwelt, who lived with good increase
Of flock and fold.



He sweetly lived; yet sweetness did not save
His life from foes.
But after death out of his grave
There sprang twelve stalks of wheat;
Which many wond'ring at, got some of those
To plant and set.

It prospered strangely, and did soon disperse
Through all the earth:
For they that taste it do rehearse
That virtue lies therein;
A secret virtue, bringing peace and mirth
By flight of sin.

Take of this grain, which in my garden grows,
And grows for you;
Make bread of it: and that repose
And peace, which ev'ry where
With so much earnestness you do pursue,
Is only there.

1633

Audio track for listening to the poem:

The poem was recited by Bart Wolfe in the following You Tube video.

Shortened form of words : In English, often many shortened or contracted forms of words are used. For examples,

do not = don't

could not = couldn't

cannot = can't

would not = wouldn't

should not = shouldn't

will not = won't

shall not = shan't

Shortened form of words from the poem

Rev'rend = reverend

Wond'ring = wondering

Ev'ry = every

B. Answer the following question

1. Find out the contracted words from the poem.
2. What sort of contracted words do you use in your daily life?
3. Make a dialogue with contracted words that we use in our daily life.

C. Guess the meanings of the following words in column A and match with column B. You may take help from the dictionary after you have tried to match the meanings.

A	B
Dwell	Rest/sleep
Humbly	Brave/heroic
Crave	Practise
Reverend	A member of the clergy in the church
Rehearse	In a modest way
Imperial	Feel a powerful desire for (something)
Gallant	Relating to an empire
Foe	Enemy
Repose	Live in a specific place



C. Write answers to the following questions based on the poem “Peace” by George Herbert.

1. Why does the poet crave for peace?
2. While searching for peace, which places did he go to?
3. Where did the old Prince live? How was the prince in his behaviour?
4. How did the old Prince die?

D. Write a summary of the poem that you have read in 200 words.

E. Follow the instructions given hereunder.

1. Find out the contracted words from the poem.
2. What sort of contracted words do you use in your daily life?
3. Make a dialogue with contracted words that we use in our daily life.

F. Read the following song and listen to the audio track.

Blowin' In The Wind

Song by Bob Dylan

How many roads must a man walk down
 Before you call him a man?
 How many seas must a white dove sail
 Before she sleeps in the sand?
 Yes, and how many times must the cannonballs fly
 Before they're forever banned?

The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind
 The answer is blowin' in the wind

Yes, and how many years must a mountain exist
 Before it is washed to the sea?
 And how many years can some people exist
 Before they're allowed to be free?

Yes, and how many times can a man turn his head
 And pretend that he just doesn't see?

The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind
 The answer is blowin' in the wind

Yes, and how many times must a man look up
 Before he can see the sky?
 And how many ears must one man have
 Before he can hear people cry?
 Yes, and how many deaths will it take 'til he knows
 That too many people have died?
 The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind
 The answer is blowin' in the wind

Audio track for listening to the song by Bob Dylan: <https://youtu.be/vWwgrjjIMX-A?si=Lf9FpF2XxqdOW4FM>



- G. In pairs, find words from the poem whose meaning you do not know, and look them up in the dictionary.**
- H. Discuss with your friend and write the following questions based on your understanding of the poem.**
1. Why does the poet use so many questions in the poem? What effect do the questions have on the readers?
 2. What does the poet refer to by mentioning banning cannonballs?
 3. Why cannot a man see the sky clearly?
 4. What does the poet refer to by saying “blowin’ in the wind?”
 5. Have you ever come across any situation in your life that makes you ignore the harsh reality and pretend that you have not seen anything?
 6. Could you think of a war or tumultuous situation in your country that you have faced or heard of that created unrest among the common people?
- I. Write a summary of the poem that you have read in 200 words.**