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LITERATURE

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family: mother, father, sister, and brother. The poem also expresses gratitude for other beautiful pleasures that the Father bestows upon mankind.

When reading this poem, remember that an author often writes about the things that he/she is familiar with or are important to him/her. Notice that the way the author thinks is also expressed in this poem.

Have you ever read a poem that is happy, sad, depressing, funny, or even very reverent? A lot of poetry, and indeed a lot of very bad poetry, is depressing or full of imagery and ideas that are not lovely, pure, or honorable. However, this poem is great because it is so good. Its content is lovely, pure, and honorable. It contains more feelings than visual imagery, but those feelings help you to feel a warmth of similar quality to visual beauty.

In this poem, two sets of rhyming sentences occur before the final statement. Each set of rhyming sentences is named a **couplet** (from the word couple) because they are a pair. Notice that two sets of couplets occur in each stanza. At the end of each stanza, the same sentence of words (verse) is repeated. This repeated verse is named a **refrain** because it occurs at regular intervals within the poem.

Can you hear the melodic quality found in this poem? The author is unknown.

We Thank Thee
Author Unknown

For mother-love and father-care,
For brothers strong and sisters fair,
For love of home and here each day,
For guidance lest we go astray,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

Couplet: a pair of rhyming sentences

For this new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends,
For ev'rything His goodness sends,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

For flowers that bloom about our feet,
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet,
For song of bird and hum of bee,
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee,

For blue of stream and blues of sky,
For pleasant shade of branches high,
For fragrant air and cooling breeze,
For beauty of the blooming trees,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

Refrain: a repeated verse that occurs at regular intervals.

POEM #4

What makes a home a home? Is it just the house you live in or is it more than that? How often do you treasure the home you live in, while living there? How often do some people have to look back to see what they have lost, once they have left home?

This poem honors and extols the beauty of the family home. It mixes both feeling and visual imagery with rhyme. Originally this poem was written in England as a song for a play. The author wrote it while reminiscing about his family back home in America. The poem later became a favorite song of homesick soldier's in the Civil War. As daring and courageous soldiers sat beside their nighttime campfires, they sang this song allowing themselves to have feelings of home amidst the horrors of war.

Each part of the poem has one stanza followed by three lines of a refrain. In this poem, the refrain is a set of three lines that are regularly repeated. Home, Sweet Home was written by John Howard Payne.

JOHN HOWARD PAYNE

John Howard Payne (1791-1852) was born into a family of nine children. He spent the first stages of his life as an actor; and then later, he worked as a writer. During his lifetime, he lived in America, England, and Africa.

Home, Sweet Home
John Howard Payne
1823

'Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam,
Be it ever so humble there's no place like home!
A blessing from the skies seems to hallow us there,
Which, seek through the world, is ne'er met with elsewhere.

Home! Home! Sweet, sweet home!
There's no place like home!
There's no place like home!

An exile from home splendor dazzles in vain;
Oh, give me my lowly thatch'd cottage again!
The birds singing gaily that came at my call;
Give me them with the peace of mind clearer than all.

Home! Home! Sweet, sweet home!
There's no place like home!
There's no place like home!

How sweet it is to sit 'neath a fond father's smile,
And the cares of a mother to soothe and beguile!
Let others delight mid new pleasures to roam,
But give me, oh, give me, the pleasures of home!

Home! Home! Sweet, sweet home!
There's no place like home!
There's no place like home!

To thee I'll return, overburdened with care;
The heart's dearest solace will smile on me there;
No more from that cottage again will roam;
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home.

Home! Home! Sweet, sweet home!
There's no place like home!
There's no place like home!

STUDY 9

DEFINITIONS

Find these words in a dictionary. On the line after each word, write its definition.

beguile: _____
dazzle: _____
extol: _____
hallow: _____
reminisce: _____
roam: _____
solace: _____

Read: POEM #4

COMPREHENSION AND REVIEW

Answer all questions and fill in the blanks.

1. What is the title of this poem? _____
2. Who is the author? _____
3. What is this topic of this poem? _____
4. Why did the author write this poem? _____
5. How many lines are in this poem? _____
6. How many stanzas does this poem have? _____
7. What lines rhyme with each other in the stanzas? _____
8. What lines rhyme with each other in the refrain? _____
9. What type of places might mankind roam? _____
10. What, though humble, is better than all the places mankind might roam? _____
11. Think about the word **hallow** and write about why there's no place like home. _____
12. Write the complete refrain from this poem.

13. In this sentence, Where would you insert a comma to help a reader understand it better?
An exile from home splendor dazzles in vain.

14. In what kind of home did the author live? _____
15. How does the author describe what peace of mind is like? _____
16. What is sweet about sitting near father? _____
17. What does mother do to soothe and beguile? _____
18. Does the author want to return home? _____
19. In line 23, What will the heart find when returning home? _____
20. The author wrote this poem with an attitude that shows what? _____
21. Does this poem reflect the personality or an opinion of the author? _____

STUDY 10

POETRY WRITING

1. Write a two stanza poem with two refrains. Your stanzas must have at least four lines each. The refrains can be from two to four lines each. Both refrains must be exactly the same. In each stanza, make every two lines rhyme. You may write your poem about anything. The following lines are provided for working on your poem. Start by writing your first two lines. Then, use the rhyming box