



Time You Old Gipsy Man!



LET'S BEGIN

Guess what the following expressions mean:

- Time and tide waits for none.
- Time is a great healer.
- A stitch in time saves nine.
- Better late than never.
- Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.
- Death keeps no calendar.



Compare your notes with a partner and see if he/she has written the same meanings.
How would you say these things in your mother tongue?

Time, you old gipsy man,
 Will you not stay,
Put up your caravan
 Just for one day?
All things I'll give you,
 Will you be my guest?
Bells for your jennet
 Of silver the best.
Goldsmiths shall beat you
 A great golden ring,





Peacocks shall bow to you,
Little boys sing.
Oh, and sweet girls will
Festoon you with may.
Time, you old gipsy;
Why hasten away?

Ralph Hodgson

Glossary

- gipsy:*** a member of a race found in parts of Europe and America who travel from place to place in caravans
- jennet:*** a small Spanish saddle horse
- festoon:*** to decorate with leaves or flowers
- may:*** the flowers of the hawthorn tree

THINKING ABOUT THE POEM

Answer these questions:

1. Why do you think the poet calls time the ‘old gipsy man’?
2. What request does the poet make to time?
3. What will happen if time becomes the poet’s guest?
4. The poet is not the only one who honours time. There are others also who honour it. Who are they? What will they gift to time?



5. Who will sing to time?
 - a. sweet girls
 - b. little boys
 - c. peacocks
6. What will goldsmiths make for time?
 - a. A necklace
 - b. A ring
 - c. A silver ring
 - d. A golden ring
7. Explain “Festoon with may”.
8. Choose a partner and discuss with him/her why you would/would not like to be a gipsy.
9. Those people who never waste time succeed in their lives. Do you believe in keeping time in whatever you do in life? Write a short paragraph about how you spend the day from morning till evening.
10. Your terminal examinations are very close. Make a timetable for yourself allocating time for different subjects. Do not forget to keep some time to rest and play too.