The Rainbow

Work in pairs and make a list of three gifts of nature that you know about:
(i) _____ (ii) _____ (iii) _____
Now read the poem below and find out if your words match those in the poem.

The Rainbow

Boats sail on the rivers,
 And ships sail on the seas;
But clouds that sail across the sky
 Are prettier far than these.

There are bridges on the rivers,
 As pretty as you please,
But the bow that bridges heaven,
 And overtops the trees,
And builds a road from earth to sky,
 Is prettier far than these.
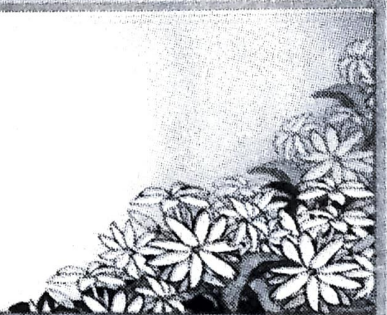
– *Christina Georgina Rossetti*
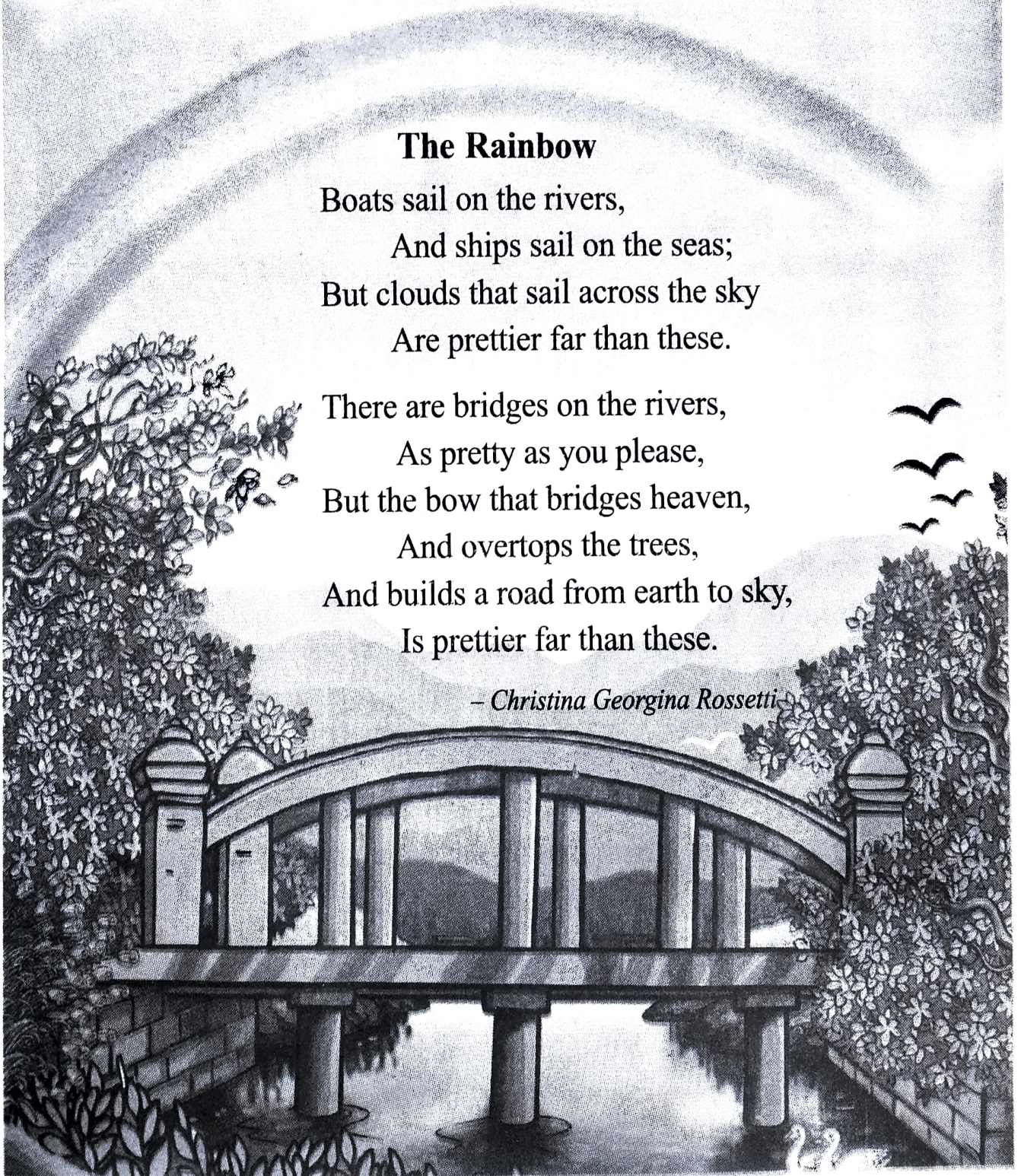
1. **Complete the following sentences by reading the poem "The Rainbow":**

   (a) Boats sail _____ .

   (b) _____ sail on the seas.

   (c) But _____ sail across the sky.

   (d) Boats and ships are pretty, but clouds are _____ .

   (e) The 'bow' in the poem is the _____ .

2. **Match the following:**

Boats	Prettier
Ships	Pretty
Clouds	Prettier
Rainbow	Pretty

3. **What are the things that the rainbow does? Fill in the blanks below with words from the poem.**

   The Rainbow .... heaven

   .... the trees

   .... from earth to sky

4. **Two summaries of the poem are given below. Which one do you like more? Discuss your answer with the friend sitting next to you. Then share your thoughts with the rest of the class.**

   (a) The poem 'The Rainbow' is about nature. Here the poet compares the beauty of nature and man-made beauty. She finds that beauty created by nature is prettier than man-made beauty. The clouds that sail across the sky are prettier than boats sailing on rivers and ships sailing on the seas. But the rainbow is prettier than all the pretty things that sail on the rivers.

(b) Boats sail on the rivers and ships sail on the seas. But the clouds that sail across the sky are prettier than these boats and ships. The bridges in the rivers are beautiful. But the rainbow that builds a road from earth to sky is prettier than the bridges.

5. (a) **As you know, rhyming words are words that end with the same sound, such as *sound-round*. Here are some words from the poem 'The Rainbow'. Work with your friend and write two words that rhyme with each of them:**
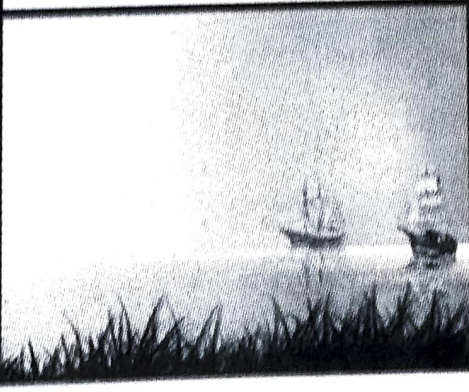
boat				sea		
river				cloud		
ship				sky		

(b) **Now say the words aloud and recite the poem 'The Rainbow' for practice.**

6. (a) **Make a list of things that:**

sail on rivers and seas	move on the road	fly across the sky

(b) **Now make three sentences with any of the words from the list above.**

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7. **Read the following stanza of 'The Rainbow' and write what you have understood about it. Draw a picture to go with it:**

> Boats sail on the rivers,
>   And ships sail on the seas;
> But clouds that sail across the sky
>   Are prettier far than these.

8. **Let's learn some grammar:**

   Read the poem 'The Rainbow' once again. Find words belonging to the following word classes and write them in the spaces below. One is done for you. You may fill the spaces with other words if you do not find an appropriate word in the poem.

   (a) **Noun** (*naming words, for example, 'boat'*): _____, _____

   (b) **Pronoun** (*a word used instead of a noun; for example, 'it'*): _____,

   _____

   (c) **Adjective** (*a word that describes a person or a thing; for example, 'pretty'*): _____, _____

   (d) **Verb:** (*a word or a group of words that expresses an action; for example, 'eat', 'run'*): _____, _____

☞ *For Activity 7, the teacher will help the learners to write the lines in prose form.*

9. The words you have written in 8 (c) are called adjectives because they say something more about a noun or a pronoun. In the poem 'The Rainbow', you found the adjectives pretty and prettier. Such adjectives show the degree of something, as shown below:

Comparison of Adjectives

Positive Degree

| Pretty |

Comparative Degree

| Prettier |

Superlative Degree

| Prettiest |

Now think of two other adjectives that can be compared in the same way, and write them in their degrees (positive, comparative and superlative) in the space below:

_____   _____   _____

_____   _____   _____

Now complete the table below by filling in the columns as shown in the examples. Two have been done for you.

Positive Degree	Comparative Degree	Superlative Degree
Pretty	Prettier	Prettiest
Beautiful	More beautiful	Most beautiful
heavy	heavier	
		bravest
famous		
simple		
	more popular	
active		

10. You must have seen in the poem how a word belonging to one word class may be used as a different word class. For example,

> bridge (noun): There is a *bridge* on the river.
>
> bridge (verb): The rainbow *bridges* the earth and sky.

Now make sentences using the following words first as a <u>noun</u>, and then as a <u>verb</u>:

book, hand, back, sail, bow, water

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11. Let's practise our word building skills. Make a few words with each of the letters from the word **RAINBOW**. First make a <u>three</u> letter word with R and then a <u>four</u> letter word, and so on. One is done for you:

R →	red	read	river	reader	rainbow
A →				Active	Aeroplane
I →		iron	idiot	island	Important
N →	no	nice	never	number	neutron
B →	beg	Book	Being	Beauty	Buttery
O →	our	ogle	other	offset	offside
W →	wag	walk	which	wanton	welcome

12. (a) Ask the following questions to your partner and write his/her answers in the given space:

    (i)   Have you ever seen a rainbow?

        Yes, I have seen a rainbow

    (ii) What does the rainbow look like?

        It look like a colourful bow

    (iii) When do you see a rainbow?

        after raining

    (iv) What colours do you see on a rainbow?

Violet
Indigo
Blue
Green
Yellow
Orange
Red

(b) Write a few sentences on how you feel when you see a rainbow in the sky. You can take help from the box.
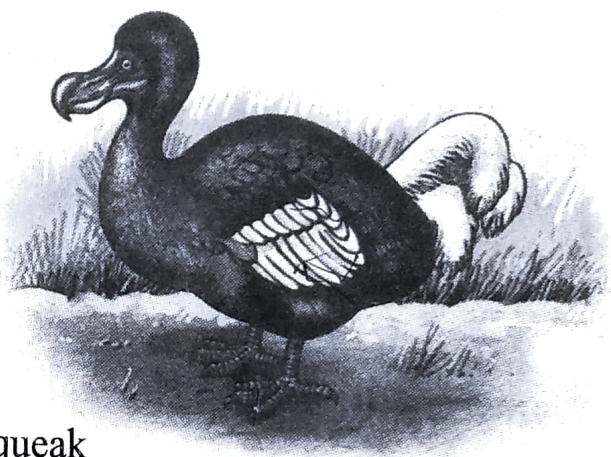
| happy | excited | full of joy |

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13. **Look at the picture and read the poem about a bird which lived on the island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean.**

The Dodo

The Dodo used to walk around
And take the sun and air.
The sun yet warms his native ground–
The Dodo is not there!

The voice which used to squawk and squeak
Is now forever dumb–
Yet you may see the bones and beak
All in the museum.

– Hillaire Belloc

Dodos were large birds that could not fly. They are no longer on the earth now. They have become **extinct**.

In small groups, discuss why we should take care of nature's gifts such as plants and animals.

14. Look at the picture and read the following sentences:

It is of the white winged wood duck. The white winged wood duck lives in tropical forests and the wetlands of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and parts of South East Asia. The number of white winged wood ducks is decreasing. Let's not allow this duck to become extinct.
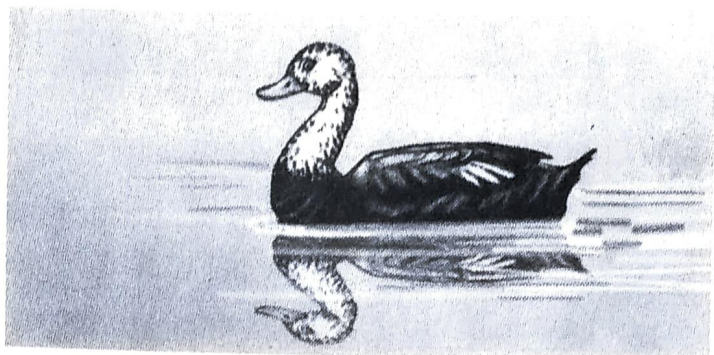
Discuss in groups what you would do to stop it from becoming extinct. Write down a few steps that you would like to take to conserve it.

You may take help of the following words and phrases for your discussion:

protect

stop killing	love and care	preserve nature

earth	extinct

15. Say these words aloud after your teacher for pronunciation practice:

Box A		Box B	
boat	wood	nature	extinct
ship	duck	pretty	rainbow
tree	sail	river	across

Now think of two other words like those in Box A and Box B and say them aloud.

☞ *The teacher will tell the learners that each word in <u>Box A</u> has one vowel sound in it. Note that in the words <u>boat</u>, <u>wood</u>, <u>tree</u> and <u>sail</u>, there are two vowel letters or repetition of the same vowel letter. But they are considered as one vowel sound. This means they have one syllable each. All the words in <u>Box B</u> have two vowel sounds. This means they have two syllables each. The word <u>nature</u> has the syllables <u>na</u>-and-<u>ture</u>. In the word <u>nature</u>, the first syllable is pronounced with greater force than the second syllable. In the word <u>across</u>, the second syllable is pronounced with greater force. A syllable pronounced with greater force than the other syllable in a word is called a **stressed** syllable.*