

2.1 We shall overcome ...



We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
we shall overcome some day;
Oh! Deep in my heart I do believe,
we shall overcome some day.

We'll walk hand in hand, we'll walk hand in hand,
We'll walk hand in hand some day;
Oh! Deep in my heart I do believe,
we shall overcome some day.

We are not afraid, We are not afraid,
We are not afraid today.
Oh! Deep in my heart I do believe,
we shall overcome some day.

The truth shall make us free, the truth shall make us free,
The truth shall make us free someday;
Oh! Deep in my heart I do believe,
we shall overcome some day.

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,
We shall live in peace some day;
Oh! Deep in my heart I do believe,
we shall overcome some day.



‘We shall overcome’ was used as a protest song in the Civil Rights movement in the USA. The song expresses unity, determination to fight injustice, and hope. This song has many versions. The well-known Hindi inspirational song ‘होंगे कामयाब’ was based on ‘We shall overcome’



ENGLISH WORKSHOP



1. Sing the song.
2. Each line in the poem tells you something about the people singing it.
Read the sentences in column A and write the appropriate lines in column B.

What the line tells us	The line
• The people have to suffer many hardships today.
• They do not have equal status and friendly relations with other people in society today.
• Other powerful people are trying to frighten the people singing the poem.
• The people singing the song are not free today.
• The people singing the song have no peace today.

3. Find out more about the Civil Rights movement in the USA. Use the internet to gather the information.
4. Find other inspiring songs associated with people’s movements.
You may list famous inspiring songs from your mother tongue / Hindi.
5. Note that many times ‘do’ is used to show emphasis.
Example : I **do** believe.
Write 3 more sentences using ‘do’ for emphasis.
6. The words ‘We shall....’ show firm resolve to do something. Read the ‘Pledge’ given in your textbook.
Using your own ideas, write a few sentences beginning with ‘I shall’/‘We shall’.