

## 1.3 Trees are the Kindest Things I Know

### WARMING UP !

#### CHIT - CHAT

- (1) When do you receive gifts?
- (2) Do you like to give gifts?
- (3) From whom do you get gifts?
- (4) What is the best gift that you have ever received?
- (5) Why is it special for you?

(1) What gifts do trees give to mankind?

(2) (A) Name two parts of a tree that begin with.

B < \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

F < \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

T < \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(B) In most countries in the Northern Hemisphere, there are four seasons: Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.

Try to guess what is the season in the months given below.

(1) March/April/May \_\_\_\_\_

(2) June/July/August \_\_\_\_\_

(3) September/October/November \_\_\_\_\_

(4) December/January/February \_\_\_\_\_

(3) An artist paints pictures using colours. A poet/writer can also paint pictures in your mind / imagination by using descriptive phrases.

For example, blue sky, soft white clouds, floating clouds etc.

Write down four such phrases which describe anything beautiful in Nature.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

(4) \_\_\_\_\_

## Trees are the Kindest Things I Know

Trees are the kindest things I know,  
They do not harm, they simply grow.  
And spread a shade for sleepy cows,  
And gather birds among their **boughs**.  
They give us fruit, in leaves above,  
And wood to make our houses of,  
And leaves to burn on **Hallowe'en**,  
And in the Spring new buds of green.  
They are the first when day's begun  
To touch the **beams** of morning sun.  
They are the last to hold the light,  
When evening changes into night.  
And when a moon floats on the sky  
They hum a **drowsy lullaby**  
Of sleepy children long ago...  
Trees are the kindest things I know.

— Harry Behn



◆ *How do trees serve birds and animals?*

- **boughs** : branches

◆ *What do trees offer human being?*

- **Hallowe'en** : a festival in Autumn observed in western countries

◆ *Which part of the trees glow first at sunrise?*

- **beams** : rays

◆ *What do trees do for small kids?*

- **drowsy** : sleepy

- **lullaby** : soft, slow song to put children to sleep

1. Pick from the poem words that rhyme with the following words.

- (a) fun → -----
- (b) no → -----
- (c) now → -----
- (d) sight → -----
- (e) fly → -----

2. Pick from the poem lines that create a picture in your mind.

- (a) And in the Spring, new buds of green.
- (b) -----
- (c) -----
- (d) -----
- (e) -----

3. The poet refers to trees as the 'Kindest Things'. From the poem pick out 5 facts which prove the kindness of trees towards others.

- (1) -----
- (2) -----
- (3) -----
- (4) -----
- (5) -----

4. Find words that describe the following.

- (1) ----- cows
- (2) ----- new buds
- (3) ----- sun
- (4) ----- lullaby
- (5) ----- trees

5. Pick out lines that mean the following.

- (1) Trees provide shelter for animals : -----
- (2) Trees provide food for all : -----
- (3) Trees are most lovable : -----
- (4) Kids love to listen to songs from trees : -----
- (5) Trees live a simple life : -----

**6. Think and write in your own words.**

- (1) What living things can cause harm to one another? Name any five.
- (2) Why are trees called harmless?
- (3) Hallowe'en is a festival celebrated in many western countries on 31<sup>st</sup> October. What is the season there? Why do you think is there a need to burn leaves on Hallowe'en?
- (4) 'They are the last to hold the light, when evening changes into night'. Which part of the day is referred to in the above lines? Which part of the trees hold the last light of the day?

**7. Search for a short poem about 'Trees' in your mother tongue. Write it in your notebook and translate any two stanzas from the poem into English.**

**8. Your neighbour is having a huge old banyan tree chopped down to make space for another construction. Write an imaginary conversation between you and your neighbour, trying to stop him from having it cut down.**

**Begin with the following :**

**Myself** : Good morning, Sir! I am very disturbed and upset to see you having this good old banyan tree chopped down.

**Neighbour** : .....

Teacher may ask and elicit responses from the students based on imaginary conversation.

**Language Study**

**1. Degrees of Comparison of Adjectives. Read the following sentences.**

- (i) Yatin is strong.
- (ii) Amit is stronger than Yatin.
- (iii) Pravin is the strongest of all.

In sentence (i) the Adjective 'strong' is in its simple form. It is called Positive Degree.

In sentence (ii) the Adjective 'stronger' refers to a higher degree, when there is a comparison of two nouns. It is called Comparative Degree. (-er is added to the basic adjective.)

In sentence (iii) the adjective 'strongest' refers to the highest degree of comparison of one with more than two nouns. It is called Superlative Degree (-est is added to the basic adjective.)

- Fill in the gap in the table of Degrees of Comparison.

	Positive	Comparative	Superlative
(1)	.....	.....	kindest
(2)	.....	healthier	.....
(3)	near	.....	.....
(4)	.....	finer	.....
(5)	.....	.....	earliest
(6)	small	.....	.....
(7)	.....	faster	.....
(8)	high	.....	.....

- Adjectives which have more than two syllables (long words) take 'more' and 'most' before them to form Comparative and Superlative degrees.

For example : successful - Positive Degree

more successful - Comparative Degree

most successful - Superlative Degree

Give the Comparative and Superlative forms of :

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
(1) ancient	.....	.....
(2) special	.....	.....
(3) significant	.....	.....
(4) advanced	.....	.....
(5) accurate	.....	.....

- When in a line of a poem human characteristics are given to something non human, the Figure of Speech used is Personification.

For example : humming trees, running river, smiling flowers.

Find the examples of Personification from the poem.

