

# Love Nature

# 1

## Act Out

Yesterday morning some grade four pupils of Subodha Maha Pirivena gathered beneath the Bo tree to prepare the agenda for the English Literary Association meeting which is to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> February.



Venerable Palitha : It's very calm here, isn't it?

Venerable Samitha : Yes, that's why the Buddha selected this tree for shelter.

Venerable Kashyapa: I see. Aren't there any other trees that the other Buddhas had used for this purpose?

Venerable Saradha : Why not? Our previous Buddhas had used different trees such as Na, Bamboo and Banyan.

Venerable Kashyapa : How does a tree become a Bodhi?

- Venerable Palitha : Well, when a Bodhisattva attains Enlightenment beneath a particular tree, that tree becomes the Bodhi or Bo tree.
- Venerable Samitha : That's true.
- Venerable Saradha : By the way, shall we start our discussion?
- Venerable Kashyapa : Yes, the agenda. What should be the first item? Where shall we have the discussion?
- Venerable Samitha : Shall we have it on this terrace?
- Venerable Kashyapa : Good idea!
- Venerable Samitha : Inviting the Chief Incumbent to the head table for religious observances should be the first item.
- Venerable Palitha : Yes, the next will be the welcome speech.
- Venerable Saradha : Then, the minutes of the previous meeting will be read by the secretary.
- Venerable Kashyapa : What about the confirmation of the minutes?
- Venerable Saradha : That should be the next item on the agenda.
- Venerable Palitha : Ah, there goes the bell! We've got to go to class now.
- Venerable Samitha : Yes, let's continue this discussion during the interval.

### **Activity 01 - Reading**

Answer the questions given below.

1. Who met beneath the Bo tree?
2. Why did they meet there?
3. According to the conversation, what is the first item on the agenda?
4. How does a tree become a Bodhi?
5. What are the names of the trees mentioned in the conversation?

**Activity 02 - Group Work**

A. Read the conversation again and list the items on the agenda in the correct order.

*Agenda*

**The English Literary Association of Subodha Maha Pirivena**

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> February                      Venue: Bodhi terrace

1. ....

2. ....

3. ....

4. ....

**Activity 03 - Listening**

A) Listen to the teacher and tick (✓) the most appropriate picture.



(.....)



(.....)

2

a)



(.....)

b)



(.....)

3

a)



(.....)

b)



(.....)

4

a)



(.....)

b)



(.....)

5



a)

(.....)



b)

(.....)

### Activity 04 - Speaking

The English Literary Association of your pirivena is having its monthly meeting. Using the phrases/ expressions given below, hold this meeting in your class.

I would like to ....

I cordially invite.....

It is time to .....

The next item on the agenda.....

Thank you for your idea....

I agree because .....

Thank you for attending the meeting

I would like to propose.....

I'm sorry, I oppose this because...

Excuse me, I have something to say...

Could anyone second it, please?

Any other suggestions?

Would anyone like to propose anything else?

I would like to welcome you .....



## Our Sacred Land

We are part of the earth and it is part of us. The perfumed flowers are our sisters; the deer; the horses; the great eagle; these are our brothers; the rocky crests; the juices in the meadows; the body heat of the pony, and man, all belong to the same family.

So we will consider your offer to buy our land, but it will not be easy, for this land is sacred to us. The shining water that moves in the streams and rivers, is not just water, but the blood of our ancestors. If we **sell** you our land, you must remember that it is sacred, and you must **teach** your children that it is sacred, and that each ghostly reflection in the clear water of the lakes, tells of events and memories in the life of my people. The water's murmur is the view of my father's father.

The rivers are our brothers, they quench our thirst. The rivers **carry** our canoes, and **feed** our children. If we sell you our land, you must remember and teach your children that the rivers are our brothers, and yours, and you must henceforth give the rivers the kindness you would **give** any brother.

He treats his mother, the earth, and his brother, the sky as things to be bought, plundered, sold like sheep or bright beads. His appetite will **devour** the earth and leave behind only a desert.

Chief Seattle

### Activity 05 - Reading

A) Complete the sentences with the given words or phrases.

(our land / belong to / behind / our thirst / voice of)

1. All ..... the same family.
2. The water's murmur is the ..... my father's father.
3. If I sell you .....you must remember that it is sacred.
4. The rivers are our brothers, they quench .....
5. His appetite will devour the earth and leave .....only a desert.

B) Read the above extract and answer the questions below.

1. According to the passage,
  - a) Who are our sisters and brothers?
  - b) Who belongs to the same family?
  - c) Whose blood moves in the streams and rivers?
2. According to Chief Seattle, what must one remember if one chooses to sell one's land?
3. Who does the speaker refer to as 'you', in the passage?
4. According to the speaker, what do the rivers do?
5. Do you think the speaker should consider the offer to buy the land? Give reasons for your answer.

### Activity 06

A) Study the example given from the text and find the words that describe the nouns given in the table.

Describing word/ adjective	Noun
<i>e.g. :-</i> great	eagle
1	flowers
2	crests
3	water
4	reflection
5	beads

B) Copy the bold typed words in the text above into your writing book and write their past form.

1. sell -
2. teach -
3. carry -
4. feed -
5. give -
6. devour -

### Activity 07 - Writing

Use the points given in the graph and write a paragraph in your writing book.





### Learning Point

#### How to write a paragraph

We can find three kinds of sentences in a paragraph.

- 1) Topic sentence  
This is an expansion of the topic.
- 2) Supportive sentences  
These sentences support the topic sentence.  
There are four or five sentences in this kind.
- 3) Concluding sentence  
This can be the summary of what you have said so far or what you plan to do.

Read the following paragraph on “Water for Life”.

### Water for Life

Among our essential needs, water comes first as we cannot live a single day without water. Seventy percent of our body consists of water. It shows how important water is. In addition, we need plenty of water for our daily activities. Animals and plants need water as we do. So we must protect this valuable gift of nature.

#### Activity 08 - Writing

Write a paragraph on “Trees are Our Friends” (use 50-60 words).

### Enrichment

How small we are, how little we know

We laugh, we cry, we live, we die  
When we are gone, the world goes on  
We love, we hate, we learn too late  
How small we are, how little we know

We hear, we touch, we talk too much  
Of things we have no knowledge of  
We see, we feel yet can't conceal  
How small we are, how little we know

See how the time moves softly by  
We don't know how, we don't know why  
We reach so high and fall so low  
The more we learn, the less we know

Too soon the time to go will come  
Too late the will to carry on  
And so we leave so much undone  
How small we are, how little we know

*Vocabulary*

conceal - to hide something

undone - not finished

**Activity 09 - Reading**

a) Find rhyming words for the following.

1. low .....
2. cry .....
3. hate .....
4. touch .....
5. buy .....

b) Find antonyms for the following words from the poem.

1. laugh .....
2. live .....
3. love .....

4. high .....
5. more .....

c) Select the suitable word class for the words given in the box.

Nouns	Adjectives	Verbs	Adverbs	see, softly, late, things
.....	.....	.....	.....	

### Activity 10

Which stanza of the poem describes the following sentences best?

- a) When we get more knowledge, we understand that we have more to know. (.....)
- b) We have to leave the world before doing much. (.....)
- c) We are late to understand that we lack knowledge. (.....)
- d) Though we talk a lot, we know very little. (.....)

### Activity 11 - Writing

Write the above poem in your own words.