



CLASS NOTES-ANSWERS

Working with the poem.

1. Discuss these questions in small groups before you answer them.

i. When is a grown-up likely to say this? Don't talk with your mouth full.

Answer: A grown-up is likely to say this to a child when she/he is eating and his/her mouth is stuffed with food.

ii. When are you likely to be told this? Say thank you.

Answer: We are likely to be told to thank someone when they help us or give us something.

iii. When do you think an adult would say this? No one thinks you are funny.

Answer: An adult would probably say this when a child acts in a weird way or tries to be funny to grab the attention of the people around him/her.

2. The last two lines of the poem are not prohibitions or instructions. What is the adult now asking the child to do? Do you think the poet is suggesting that this is unreasonable? Why?

Answer: In the poem, the adult advises the child about the things that he should do and should not do. However, in the last two lines, the adult expects the child to make his own decisions. Yes, the poet suggests that this is unreasonable because the child cannot decide what he should or



should not do when his actions are bound by instructions and prohibitions.

3. Why do you think grown-ups say the kind of things mentioned in the poem? Is it important that they teach children good manners, and how to behave in public?

Answer: The grown-ups say things like these because they want to teach their children good manners. They want the children to become responsible citizens and behave well in public. Yes, it's important to teach such things to children for them to learn how to be responsible citizens of society and how to behave with their elders and youngsters and everyone at home. The children can learn a lot from the experience of elders present around them.

4. If you had to make some rules for grown-ups to follow, what would you say? Make at least five such rules. Arrange the lines as in a poem.

Answer: If I had to make the rules, they would be like:

No abuse of any kind.

Games and play time should be involved in the timetable.

Keep the neighbourhood area clean.

No smoking in public places.

Physical punishments prohibited.