Unit One

1.1 Life

■ ■ ■ Warming up! ■ ■ ■

1. There are many popular lines like :-
   - 'Life is a game – play it well'.
   - 'Life is a journey – keep going ahead'.

   Discuss and write down a few such metaphorical lines about 'life'. You can make them up yourselves.

   (1) .....
   (2) .....
   (3) .....
   (4) .....
   (5) .....

2. Prepare as many 'acrostics' using the word LIFE, as you can. Two examples are given below.

   Live
   In
   Freedom
   Ever

   Liberty
   Integrity
   Fraternity
   Equality

   You can turn it into a game, using a time-limit. Make sure your acrostics are related to 'life'.

3. Listen carefully and write the word in the appropriate column.

Positive Feelings	Negative Feelings

Teacher : hopeful, lonely, happy, jealous, surprised, shy, loving, proud, cheerful, anxious, nervous, excited, embarrassed, scared, silly, comfortable, peaceful, depressed, enthusiastic, motivated, inspired, threatened, crushed, angry

- Note that it is possible to feel both kinds of emotions at the same time. Have you experienced it? Try to describe the situation in short.

Life

Life, believe, is not a dream,
So dark as sages say;
Oft a little morning rain
Foretells a pleasant day :

Sometimes there are clouds of gloom,
But these are transient all;
If the shower will make the roses bloom,
Oh, why lament its fall?

Rapidly, merrily,
Life's sunny hours flit by,
Gratefully, cheerily,
Enjoy them as they fly.

What though death at times steps in,
And calls our Best away?
What though Sorrow seems to win,
O'er hope a heavy sway?

Yet Hope again elastic springs,
Unconquered, though she fell,
Still buoyant are her golden wings,
Still strong to bear us well.

Manfully, fearlessly,
The day of trial bear,
For gloriously, victoriously,
Can courage quell despair!

- *Charlotte Bronte*

- What do the sages say?
- What does the rain often foretell?
- What should we do during joyful times in life?
- Who does 'our Best' refer to?
- Why are the wings of hope 'golden'?

- sway : controlling influence
- transient : temporary
- buoyant : that which can rise upwards
- lament : express grief or regret
- quell : end, suppress

1. Pick out from the poem, two lines each that reflect an optimistic (positive) attitude and pessimistic (negative) attitude.

   Optimism : (1) ..... Pessimism : (1) .....

   (2) ..... (2) .....

2. Give other '-ly' adverbs of similar meaning for the following. Use a thesaurus if needed.

   (a) rapidly → .....
   (b) merrily → .....
   (c) gratefully → .....
   (d) cheerily → .....
   (e) manfully → .....
   (f) fearlessly → .....
   (g) gloriously → .....
   (h) victoriously → .....

3. Pick out three examples of interrogation (rhetorical questions) from the poem.
   (a) Explain in your own words the point that each one makes.

Interrogation	Explanation
(1)	
(2)	
(3)	

   (b) Explain the metaphor in the following lines :

   (1) Oft a little morning rain .....
   Foretells a pleasant day .....
   (2) Sometimes there are clouds .....
   (3) ... the shower will make the roses bloom .....
   (4) Life's sunny hours flit by .....

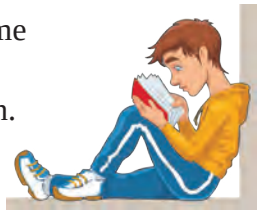
   (c) Pick out four examples of personification. Write what is personified in each :

   (1) ..... (3) .....
   (2) ..... (4) .....

   (d) 'And calls our Best away' is a gentle way of expressing the unpleasant idea of a loved one dying. It is an example of euphemism. Think and write down 3 or 4 ways in which we can express the idea of 'death' in a tactful and gentle manner.

   (1) ..... (3) .....
   (2) ..... (4) .....

4. '..... and that's how I realised that courage and hope can help me overcome any major mishap/problem in life.' Write an episode/ experience from your own life that leads to the above conclusion.



5. **Read :** 'The Psalm of Life' – a poem by H. W. Longfellow.