

2.1 You Start Dying Slowly...

Warming up!

Chit-Chat

1. Assuming A, B, C, D, as speakers, ask the assigned questions in your group and discuss.

A	B	C	D
If you do not study well, what will happen?	If you wake up late on a working day, what will happen?	If you do not exercise regularly, what will happen?	If you eat too much of junk food, what will happen?
If you do not participate in school activities/ games	If you ignore a friend in need.		

2. Things I can do in my life

For my nation	For my family	For my friends	For old people	For the needy	For myself
Keep my locality clean	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	wait	.....	.....	.....
.....	care	.....	help	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....	share	pray

3. Complete the following web and write a paragraph.



You Start Dying Slowly...

- **dying slowly** : losing hope of a happy future

✦ What things can lead to a slow death?

- **self-esteem** : a feeling of being happy with your own character and abilities, self respect

Think, discuss and answer.

✦ What is it that makes life worth living? Give four points.

- **turbulent** : unsteady
- **glisten** : shine, sparkle

✦ The poet has left the last stanza incomplete. What line will you add to complete it?

- **sensible** : wise, full of common sense

If you do not travel,
If you do not read,
If you do not listen to the sounds of life,
If you do not appreciate yourself.
You start **dying slowly**...

When you kill your **self-esteem**;
When you do not let others help you.
You start dying slowly...

If you become a slave of your habits,
Walking everyday on the same paths...
If you do not change your routine,
If you do not wear different colours
Or you do not speak to those you don't know.
You start dying slowly...

If you avoid to feel passion
And their **turbulent** emotions;
Those which make your eyes **glisten**
And your heart beat fast.
You start dying slowly...

If you do not change your life
when you are not satisfied with your job,
or with your love,
If you do not risk what is safe, for the uncertain,
If you do not go after a dream,
If you do not allow yourself,
At least once in your lifetime,
To run away from **sensible** advice...

– Pablo Neruda

1. Read the different messages in the poem given below. Choose the one that suits this poem, best.

- (a) Face life whatever it may give you.
- (b) Fulfil all your dreams and unfulfilled desires.
- (c) Be yourself and do what your heart tells you.
- (d) Accept all possible changes or risks that you have taken.
- (e) Keeping your self-esteem intact, just try to relax in life.

2. State the following :

(a) Theme/Central idea of the poem.

.....
.....
.....

(b) Line that provides evidence of the theme.

.....
.....
.....

(c) Three characteristics, from the poem, that make a person dull and uninteresting.

.....
.....
.....

3. Pick out four Adjectives from the poem and write them down with the nouns they describe.

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

4. Compare the structure of the poem, ‘You start dying slowly to the poems in Unit One (1.1 and 1.3) To which poem does the structure match?

What differences do you notice in the other ones. Note them down.

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

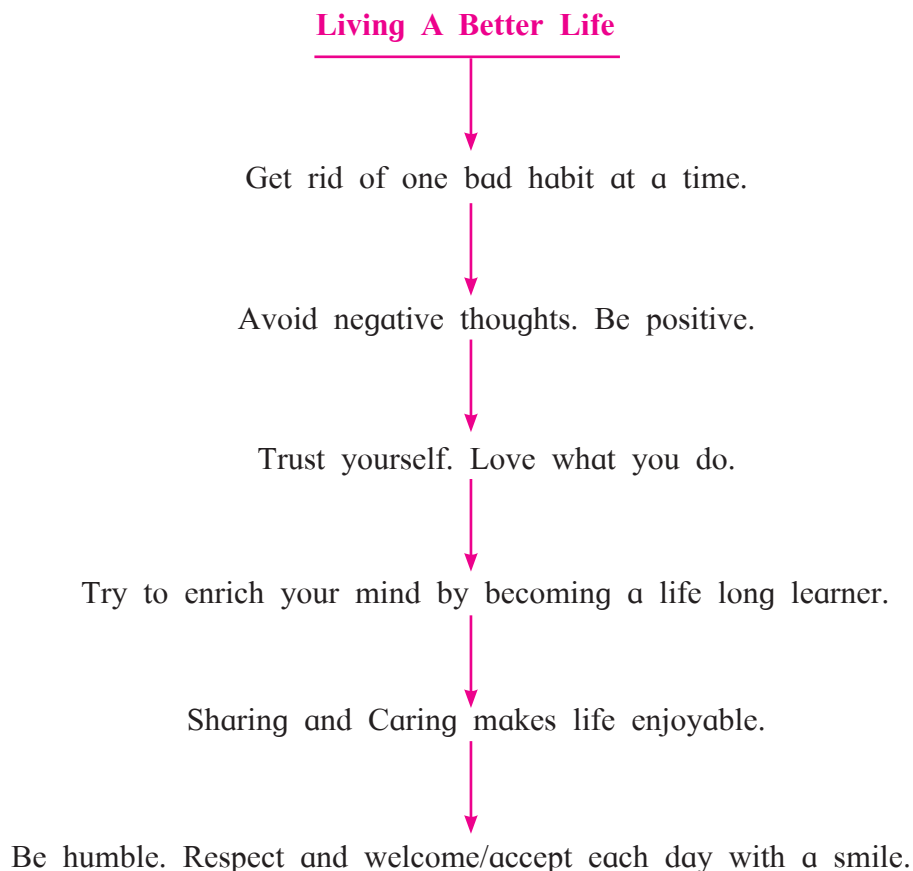
5. What expression is repeated in the poem? How many times? Why do you think the poet emphasizes it?

.....
.....
.....
.....

6. Write the opposite of the following in the form of advice using different words and phrases.

- (a) You do not travel ✕ you should travel, as much as you can.
- (b) You do not appreciate yourself ✕
- (c) You kill your self-esteem ✕ you should keep up your self-esteem.
- (d) You become a slave of habits ✕.....
- (e) You refuse to speak to strangers ✕.....
- (f) You do not change your life ✕.....
- (g) You refuse to take a risk ✕.....

7. Go through the following steps and discuss in pairs about the facts mentioned in it. Write a paragraph using the points. Give another interesting title.



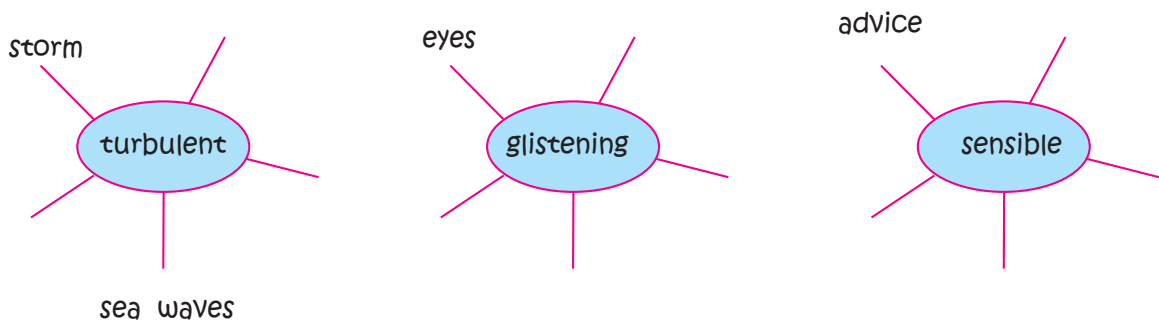
8. Complete the following table with the things in your life which help you to change your habits and routine.

If I do this	I shall.....
If I travel
If I read
If I change my bad habits
If I play continuously on a mobile phone	I shall miss the pleasures of playing outdoor games.
If I don't make friends

9. Everyone needs inspiration to move ahead or make progress in our life. There are some things which inspire us to live better. What are those things?

- (a) Stories (b) (c)
 (d) (e) (f)

10. Complete the web diagrams with words that go with their topics.



11. Write about a day when you felt very happy. Use the following questions to help you. Think/Recollect a day

Note down the points.

- (1) Do you remember the exact day and date?
- (2) Was it a special occasion or celebration?
- (3) What happened on that day?
- (4) How did you react to the things that happened on that day?
- (5) How did other people react when they saw you were so happy?
- (6) What did you do next?
- (7) What happened in the end?

(8) Describe any other emotions you felt that day.

Now, with the help of the guidelines write a short paragraph of at least 100 words about that happy day. Give a suitable title for your narrative/write up.

12. Use internet or any book to write four inspirational or motivational quotes, related to the message/s in the poem.

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

