

23. Where the Mind is without Fear

What according to you is 'freedom'?

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high; Where knowledge is free;

Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by

narrow domestic walls;

Where words come out from the depth of truth;

Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;

Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the

dreary desert sand of dead habit;

Where the mind is led forward by Thee into ever-widening thought and action...

Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

-Rabindranath Tagore

Word Meanings

mind a person's way of thinking

fear the bad feeling that you have when you are in danger

fragments small pieces narrow limited

depth the strength and power of feeling striving sincere effort to do something dreary that makes you feel sad or dull

aware knowing something

Reading Comprehension

A. Match the expressions given in column 'B' to 'A': 'A' 'B'

the mind is without fear we feel proud

the head is held high freedom to express our thinking and

ideas

knowledge is free with own interest

broken up into fragments a society with all types of creed, caste

and religious, but not united

narrow domestic walls every one has the right to get the

knowledge according to his/her own

interest

English-8

tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection

to be truthful, honest and sincere

clear stream of reason

follow bad customs and traditions

dreary desert sand of dead habit

think logically

the mind is led forward by Thee into ever widening thought and

feeling of freedom

action

heaven of freedom

let my country be free

let my country awake

request to God for gifting us broad thinking and work accordingly.

B. Answer the following questions:

1. Make a list of the qualities found in the 'Heaven of Freedom'.

- 2. Who does the poet address when he says 'My Father'?
- 3. What type of society does the poet dream about?
- 4. Where should the mind be led?
- 5. How can people move towards perfection?
- 6. What does the poet mean when he says "let my country awake"?
- 7. What are the factors which are barriers for a good society?
- 8. In what sense is 'Heaven of Freedom' used?
- 9. What type of freedom helps us to make our country heaven?
- 10. Make a list of bad customs you find in your society.

Vocabulary

A. I. Use the words given in brackets to frame your sentences:

free-freedom, high-height, know-knowledge, deep-depth, perfect-perfection, act-action.

II. Match the columns: (opposite words)

'A' whole ever shallow high fragments fold found narrow deep cheerful stretch greenery hell lost dreary low desert broad heaven never

B. Use the following phrases in your own sentences: broken up, depth of truth, lost its way, dreary desert

Grammar



A. Pick up the phrases from the box and answer the question as given in the example:

Where do you want to go in the summer vacation?

Example: I would like to go to a place where there is a lot of greenery.

peace, cool water, no riots, waterfall, enough food, freedom, dense forest, beautiful gardens, beautiful mountains, gentle people, a lot of greenery.

B. Write the sentences in your note book and underline the part of the sentences beginning with 'Where':

Writing

Look at the table given below. On the left are given some questions that we often ask ourselves. Write your opinion in the box given on the right hand side:

Questions that we ask ourselves	When do you feel so ?
When is your mind free from fear?	
When do you feel proud of your actions?	
When would you feel satisfied with the work that you have done?	

Activity

A. Select two statements that match the belief/action of persons in the story: <u>See Appendix-1 Lesson-23</u>

	A		В
1.	Wise Man	1.	thought that no one can stop things from happening
2.	Intelligent Man	2.	took action after careful thought
3.	Man who believed in fate	3.	left the place
		4.	removed his belongings
		5.	came up with solutions to problems
		6.	continued to stay

В.	Think of five things you could do to fulfill Rabindranath Tagore's dream
	for India as given in his poem 'Where the mind is without Fear':

You could begin your statements with the following expressions.
Tou could begin your statements with the following expressions.
I am determined to
I've decided to
I'm going to
I intend to
I'm planning to

Project

Frame some phrases with the help of the given words. An example is given: Example:

	Clear Stream Sky Voice
bright	
L	
beautiful	

Where the Mind is without Fear

huge _	
little _	

Use the following proverb in your sentence. Meaning is given.

Proverb Meaning

The first step is the hardest. Making a start is the most difficult part of

an action.

