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Gifts of Grace: Honouring Our Vocations

Summary

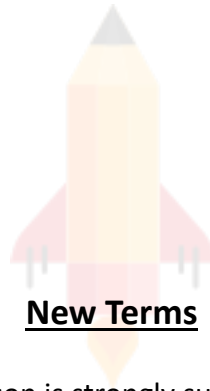
The poem Gifts of Grace: Honouring Our Vocations celebrates the value and dignity of all kinds of work in society. It highlights how people from different professions - like carpenters, electricians, shoemakers, cooks, and artisans - contribute meaningfully to our everyday lives. Each worker is shown as skilled, dedicated, and proud of their craft.

The poet emphasizes that every vocation is important and unique. A person's work is not just a job but a reflection of their identity, as seen in the idea that "the voice of their vocation is the voice of their identity." The poem has a respectful and joyful tone, appreciating the efforts of all workers equally.

The poem teaches us to respect and value every profession, no matter how small it may seem. It reminds us that society depends on the combined efforts of all workers, and each one deserves recognition, dignity, and appreciation.

Message of the poem:

- Respect all kinds of work
- Follow your passion
- Never give up
- Share knowledge and skills



New Terms

- **Vocation** – a job or occupation that a person is strongly suited for
- **Grace** – kindness, beauty, or natural skill
- **Malleable** – something that can be easily shaped or moulded
- **Tedious** – very tiring and boring
- **Exhaustion** – extreme tiredness
- **Reward** – something gained in return for effort
- **Pittance** – a very small amount of money
- **Weaving** – making fabric by interlacing threads
- **Implements** – tools used for a particular purpose
- **Kiln** – a special oven used to bake or harden clay
- **Clay** – soft earth used to make pots
- **Craft** – a skill of making things by hand
- **Perseverance** – continuing effort despite difficulties
- **Passion** – strong interest or love for something
- **Tradition** – customs or skills passed from one generation to another

Reflect and Respond

I. Given below are four riddles. Read and identify who these people are.

1. In furrows deep, secrets I sow,
As time passes,
I watch them grow.
Who am I? _____

Ans. Farmer

2. From wheel to kiln, my skill is born,
Step by step, an art takes form.
Who am I? _____

Ans. Potter

3. I lay foundations, brick by brick,
To build a house, it's me you pick.
Who am I? _____

Ans. Mason (Builder)

4. I work with pots, pans, and spice,
Creating dishes that taste so nice.
Who am I? _____

Ans. Cook/Chef

II. What is the role and relevance of the people you identified in the riddles. How do they contribute to the society? Discuss with your classmates and teacher.

Ans. Role and Relevance of the People in the Riddles:

- Farmer: Farmers grow crops and provide us with food. Without them, we would not have the basic necessity of life.
- Potter: Potters make useful items like pots, utensils, and decorative objects. They also preserve traditional art and culture.
- Mason/Builder: Masons build houses, roads, and buildings. They help in creating safe shelters and infrastructure for people.
- Cook: Cooks prepare food for individuals, families, and communities. They ensure that people get nutritious and tasty meals.

Contribution to Society:

- All these workers contribute to society in essential ways. They:
- Fulfil our daily needs (food, shelter, utensils)
- Support the economy through their skills
- Maintain cultural traditions and craftsmanship
- Help in the smooth functioning of everyday life

Check Your Understanding

I. Based on your understanding of the poem, state whether the following statements are true or false. Also, rectify the false statements.

1. The poem highlights the skilled work of craftsman.

Ans. True

2. The poet shares that musicians express emotions through their instruments.

Ans. True

3. The carpenters in the poem are admired for their logical work.

Ans. False,

Correction - The carpenters are admired for their skilled and creative work.

4. The electricians in the poem are recognised for their crucial role in lighting up lives.

Ans. True

5. The poem pays homage to shoemakers who manufacture quality footwear.

Ans. True

6. The poem celebrates the patriotism of the people of Bharat.

Ans. False,

Correction - The poem celebrates the hard work and importance of different vocations.

7. The poet feels that each vocation deserves to be respected.

Ans. True

II. Let us appreciate the poem.

1. Rhyme Scheme and Lineation

i. Does the poem strictly adhere to a rhyme scheme, or is it in free verse?

Ans. The poem does not follow a strict rhyme scheme. It is written in free verse, which means it does not have a regular pattern of rhyming words at the end of lines.

ii. What is the impact of the varying length of lines in the poem?

Ans. The lines in the poem are of different lengths, which gives it a natural, flowing rhythm—almost like spoken language. This variation:

- Makes the poem feel lively and expressive
- Reflects the diversity of different vocations
- Helps emphasise certain ideas and images

iii. What is the pattern in the structure of most lines of the poem?

Ans. Most lines follow a descriptive pattern, where:

- A vocation is introduced (e.g., carpenters, electricians, boatmen)
- Followed by what they do and how they do it

This creates a repeated structure of “worker + action + significance”, which highlights each profession clearly and respectfully.

2. Speaker

i. Who appears to be the speaker and what is her/his role here?

Ans. The speaker appears to be the poet, who observes and appreciates different vocations and expresses admiration for them.

3. Tone and Mood

i. Fill in the blanks with suitable options from the box given below.

serious	celebratory	hostile
reverential	joyful	sympathetic

A. The tone is _____ and _____, depicting a sense of admiration and respect for the artisans and craftspersons.

Ans. reverential, celebratory

B. There is a _____ mood throughout the poem, capturing the vibrancy and richness of cultural traditions and skills.

Ans. joyful

4. Imagery

i. Select any two descriptions from the poem that evoke visual images.

Ans. Two visual images:

- “The carpenters... create anything out of wood with mathematical precision” – this creates a clear picture of carpenters carefully shaping wood.
- “The boatmen gathering their nets from the shore, sailing...” – this helps us imagine boatmen working by the sea.

ii. Fill in the blanks with suitable phrases.

- The poem includes auditory imagery through mentions of artisans with lutes, _____, and _____, emphasising the sounds associated with each vocation.

Ans. flutes, drums

5. Metaphor

i. State whether the following sentence is true or false.

- The mention of 'delicious singing' of the cook is a metaphor because it implies that the quality of the singing is so enjoyable or pleasing that it can be equated to the experience of tasting something delicious.

Ans. True

6. Personification

i. Select the line that tells us that the poet personifies vocations by attributing humanlike qualities to them.

Ans. "I hear Bharat celebrating..." (This gives Bharat a human quality of celebrating.)

7. Repetition

i. Why might the poet have begun and ended with the same line—'I hear Bharat celebrating, the varied vocations I hear!'?

Ans. The poet begins and ends the poem with the same line—"I hear Bharat celebrating, the varied vocations I hear!"—to create a sense of unity and completeness.

- It acts like a refrain, emphasizing the central idea that all professions are worth celebrating.
- Repeating the line at the end reinforces the message that every vocation contributes to the richness and harmony of the nation.
- It also gives the poem a musical and rhythmic effect, making it more memorable.

8. Alliteration

i. Identify two examples of alliteration from the poem.

Ans. Examples:

- "busy buzzing"
- "sweet singing"

9. Symbolism

i. Each vocation in the poem symbolises something more than just a job. What does it symbolise?

Ans. Each vocation in the poem symbolises a person's identity, dignity, and contribution to society, not just a means of earning a living.

- It represents self-expression, as people show their skills and creativity through their work.
- It symbolises pride and dedication, as each worker takes joy in what they do.
- It also reflects the interconnectedness of society, where every job supports and depends on others.

Critical Reflection

I. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

- The shoemakers affirming the quality of their work, for the feet that walk, dance, run, jump, return home.

The delicious singing of the cook, or the rhythm of designer, mason, each celebrating what belongs to them and to none else,

1. The poet says that the shoemakers 'affirm' the quality of their work. What does 'affirm' refer to here?

(i) to make adjustments in

(ii) to declare with confidence

(iii) to label the goods

(iv) to justify the efforts

Ans. (ii) to declare with confidence

2. What do quality shoes help with, according to the poet?

Ans. They help the feet to walk, dance, run, jump, and return home comfortably.

3. What does 'return home' symbolise besides the literal act of returning?

Ans. It symbolises safety, comfort, and the end of a day's journey.

4. Identify the phrase that tells us that every worker's contribution is distinct.

Ans. "each celebrating what belongs to them and to none else"

5. Complete the following with suitable words.

- ...for the feet that walk, dance, run, jump, return home refers to _____.

Ans. It refers to the different activities and journeys of life.

II. Answer the following questions.**1. Why does the poet say, 'I hear Bharat celebrating, the varied vocations I hear'?**

Ans. The poet says this to show that people of different vocations are happily doing their work, and together they create a sense of celebration in the country.

2. What does the electrician 'humming' while getting ready for work suggest?

Ans. The electrician "humming" while getting ready for work suggests that he is happy, relaxed, and takes joy in his work. It shows a sense of satisfaction and dedication towards his profession.

This also reflects that the electrician does not see his job as a burden, but rather enjoys it, which highlights the poem's message that every vocation can be a source of pride and happiness.

3. Explain the significance of the line, 'The voice of their vocation is the voice of their identity.'

Ans. It means that a person's work defines who they are, and their skills and profession become an important part of their identity.

4. Do you think the role of all the people belonging to different vocations is important in our daily lives? Support your answer with a reason.

Ans. Yes, every vocation is important because each one contributes to society and helps meet our daily needs.

5. Why is the poet celebrating all the vocations in the poem? Explain by giving examples from your context.

Ans. The poet celebrates all vocations in the poem to show that every job is important and deserves respect. Each profession contributes in its own way to make our lives comfortable and meaningful. The poet wants us to understand that no work is small or insignificant, and every worker has dignity.

- For example, the poet mentions carpenters, who create useful objects with precision, and electricians, who bring light into our homes. Similarly, shoemakers ensure comfort for our feet, and boatmen work hard to earn their living while connecting places and people

6. How does the poet use sensory imagery to bring out the beauty of everyday work?

Ans. The poet uses sensory imagery—especially sound and sight—to highlight the beauty of everyday work and make it vivid for the reader.

- **Auditory imagery (sound):** The poet describes sounds like artisans with lutes, electricians humming, and boatmen singing. These sounds create a lively and musical atmosphere, showing that work is not dull but full of rhythm and joy.
- **Visual imagery (sight):** The poem paints pictures of different workers at their tasks, such as carpenters shaping wood with precision and boatmen gathering nets by the shore. This helps us clearly imagine their actions and dedication.
- **Other sensory details:** Phrases like the "delicious singing of the cook" appeal to our sense of taste and sound together, making the description more vivid and creative.

Vocabulary in Context

- I. People of different vocations are being described in the poem. Match the vocations given in the box below with the descriptions that follow.

ASHA worker	confectioner	sericulturist
welder	horticulturist	goldsmith

1. A person who studies or grows garden plants: _____
2. A trained female community health worker: _____
3. A producer of raw silk: _____
4. A person whose job is making or selling sweets and chocolates: _____
5. A metalworker who specialises in working with precious metals: _____
6. A person who fuses materials together: _____

Ans. Match the vocations:

1. Horticulturist
2. ASHA worker
3. Sericulturist
4. Confectioner
5. Goldsmith
6. Welder

- II. Identify the word from Column 2 that is not the synonym of the words given in Column 1.



Column 1	Column 2
1. myriad	(i) countable, innumerable, numerous, abundant
2. hues	(ii) shades, tints, drawing, colour
3. precision	(iii) exactness, accuracy, correctness, calculation
4. varied	(iv) assorted, diverse, uniform, different
5. delicious	(v) mouth-watering, inedible, tasty, flavourful

Ans. Identify the word that is NOT a synonym

1. **myriad** → countable ✗
(Correct synonyms: innumerable, numerous, abundant)
2. **hues** → drawing ✗
(Correct synonyms: shades, tints, colour)
3. **precision** → calculation ✗
(Correct synonyms: exactness, accuracy, correctness)
4. **varied** → uniform ✗
(Correct synonyms: assorted, diverse, different)
5. **delicious** → inedible ✗
(Correct synonyms: mouth-watering, tasty, flavourful)

Writing Task

Your school will be organising a 'Career Mela' in which students are to be made familiar with the different career options. Complete the poster for the event given below.

<p>NAME OF THE ORGANISER _____</p> <p>Event purpose (if any) _____</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>Time _____</p> <p>Venue _____</p> <p>Highlights/Attractions _____</p> <p>Slogan _____</p> <p>Entry tickets _____</p> <p>Sponsors _____</p> <p>Issuing Authority _____</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">_____ </p> <p style="text-align: center;">announces _____ MELA</p> <p>to spread awareness about various careers</p> <p>on 25 February from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at _____, _____</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Details, information _____ provided for all streams ✦ Counsellors for all _____ ✦ Interactive _____ with professionals <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 50px; margin: 5px 0; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">CHART YOUR FUTURE AT CAREER MELA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ : FREE</p> <p style="text-align: right;">_____ School</p>
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A **poster** is used to announce an event. It has the following features:

- ✦ placed in a box
- ✦ visually attractive
- ✦ letters of different fonts and size
- ✦ proportionate spacing
- ✦ word limit: 50

Ans.

One Point Learning

