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## A Good Boy

### Contexts

'A Good Boy' is a short and simple poem by the 19th century British storyteller and poet R.L. Stevenson. The narrator of this poem is a young boy. The poem is written for young children. Like this poem, there are many poems and stories that have young children as their characters and readers. Such poems and stories are collectively referred to as children's literature. They teach important lessons and guide the youngsters. The characters in them often face the situations and problems that we do. Children love these poems and stories and find them a great fun to read.

Children's literature is now recognized worldwide as an independent literary genre. Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book* and Ruskin Bond's stories are some notable examples of children's literature.

### Paraphrase

The young boy in the poem 'A Good Boy' wakes up before sunrise and spends his day happily. He does not say anything bad about anyone and spends his time playing.

When evening comes, the boy is happy as he knows he has been a good boy all through the day. As he gets ready to sleep on his clean bed, he is sure of having no scary dreams until he wakes up for another beautiful day.

### Perspectives

- ▶ The little boy uses no ugly words throughout the day. He is busy playing, and enjoys his time.
  - Do you ever use hurtful words or say something bad about anyone? What can you do to avoid this?
  - How do you usually spend a day at home? What would you like to do?
- ▶ The little boy goes to bed early and wakes up early. He remains cheerful during the day and sleeps with no bad dreams at night.

- At what time do you usually go to sleep? When do you get up in the morning?
- When do you like to study or play? At what time of the day do you feel the most energetic?
- ▶ The boy in the poem is sure he will not see ugly dreams when he sleeps.
  - Have you ever had a bad dream? What was it about? What did you do next?
  - What should one do to have only good dreams?
- ▶ The poem tells us how the sun rises in the morning and sets in the evening.
  - Find out more about the sun and the moon. Is it possible to see them at the same time?

## Higher Order Thinking Skills

1. Why do you think it is good to get up early in the morning?
2. Write three of your habits. Do you think you should change them? Answer 'yes' or 'no'.

## Language in Use

### Vocabulary

#### Expressions of Time

Your teacher will mark out two corners in the class. One corner will be BEFORE and the other will be AFTER. She/He will then distribute slips with time expression written on it.

When the teacher says 'Start,' read the time expression given on your slip. If the time expression talks about something that has already happened, you need to go to the BEFORE corner. If the time expression has something that will happen in the future, you need to go to the AFTER corner.

When all the students reach their corner, your teacher will check the score. For each correct answer, your team scores a point. The team with the highest score wins.

## Appreciation

### Rhyming Words

Read out the poem again. You will notice that from the start of the poem to its end, each set of two lines has last words that sound similar. These are called rhyming words. These words add a little musical quality to the poem. Can you find more poems that use rhyming words?

### Learn by Doing

Your teacher will give each of you two placards. One placard says GOOD while the other says BAD. Your teacher will then read out some statements. If you think the action in the statement is good, raise the placard that says GOOD. If you think the action in the statement is wrong, then raise the placard that says BAD.