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The Truth

Paraphrase

The poet offers some great advice that is useful at all times. The opening line of the poem 'Say what you want' is his message. The reader is constantly reminded to be truthful in their words and actions. The poet advises against all kinds of trickery and deception. The truth, he says, will make us humble once again.

'The truth', as he speaks of it, is around us and even within us. It is the search for truth that helps each of us live from day to day. The most important part of the poet's message is the need for one to be true to oneself.

Perspectives

- ▶ In the last lines of the poem 'The truth is a goal/We all must achieve' the poet seems to say that the search for truth is not simply an individual duty but a social responsibility. It is a task for us as a society.
 - Do you think truth can actually be found? What do you think truth will look like or feel like?
 - Do you believe 'the truth' will be the same for each person in the world? Can it be different?
- ▶ One of the messages in the poem is the need to be truthful to ourselves.
 - Can you think of an instance when you pretended to be different from what you actually are or behaved differently to please others around you?
 - How did the incident make you feel? What was the response of others around you who actually knew you well – your family or close friends?

Higher Order Thinking Skills

1. Have you ever been lied to by someone you care about? How did it make you feel when you discovered their lie?

2. Do you think TV advertisements always tell the truth about their products? Do you think it is acceptable for advertisements to lie about what the products do?

Language in Use

Appreciation

- ▶ Divide the class into groups of four. Your teacher will play or read out some poems. Identify the rhyming words correctly to score a point. The group that scores the highest number of points wins the game.
- ▶ Note that the last word in every alternate line of some stanzas sounds similar. We know that such words are called rhyming words. Rhyming words add a musical or lyrical quality to the poem. When we are able to find a particular pattern to the rhyming words in a poem, we call it the rhyme scheme of the poem.
 - Try to think of any other poems that you may have read which used rhyming words.
- ▶ The line 'Bring you to your knees' does not really mean to knock someone down on to their knees! Instead, it means 'to make someone humble'. You will realize that each individual word in this phrase comes together to mean something entirely different from its literal meaning. Such expressions are called idioms.
 - Can you think of other idioms that you may be familiar with?

Interact

Listening

Work in pairs. Take turns to tell a personal story to your partner. However, the story should contain two truths and one lie. For each lie that you correctly identify, you get a point. The person with the higher score at the end of three stories wins.

Speaking

Divide the class into two groups – Team A and Team B. Your teacher will give you various real-life situations. For the first situation, Team A has to choose to be truthful while Team B has to choose to tell a lie. Both teams need to discuss and defend why they chose to be truthful or lie in that situation. The roles change in the second situation, with Team A choosing to lie and Team B being truthful in the situation.

Express

Write a paragraph in 75–100 words describing a situation where you were truthful about something and if it helped you earn the trust of the people around you. Use the hints given below to complete the paragraph:

- Who were you honest with?
- What made you tell the truth regardless of the consequences?
- What were the consequences of telling the truth?
- Did people appreciate your honesty in the situation?
- Is it important to admit one's mistakes and correct them? Why/Why not?

Learn by Doing

Use the Internet or the library to find facts that are so hard to believe that they seem like lies. Write them down in your notebook.