

You Are Old, Father William

Lewis Carroll

"You are old, Father William," the young man said,

"And your hair has become very white;

And yet you **incessantly** stand on your head—

Do you think, at your age, it is right?"



"In my youth," Father William replied to his son,

"I feared it would injure the brain;

But now that I'm perfectly sure I have none,

Why, I do it again and again."



"You are old," said the youth, "as I mentioned before,

And have grown most **uncommonly** fat;

Yet you turned a back-somersault in at the door—

Pray, what is the reason of that?"



"In my youth," said the sage, as he shook his grey locks,

"I kept all my limbs very **supple**

By the use of this ointment—one **shilling** the box—

Allow me to sell you a couple."

"You are old," said the youth, "and your jaws are too weak

For anything tougher than **suet**;

Yet you finished the goose, with the bones and the beak—

Pray, how did you manage to do it?"

incessantly without stopping

uncommonly unusually,
extremely

supple flexible

shilling a coin formerly used in
the UK

suet pudding made of animal fat

5. Which of these absurd feats is Father William said to have accomplished?
 - a. doing headstands constantly
 - b. eating a whole goose
 - c. a backward somersault
 - d. breaking bricks with his head
6. Which of these descriptions have been used for Father William in the poem?
 - a. old, white-haired
 - b. uncommonly fat
 - c. awfully clever
 - d. extremely hot-tempered

B. Answer these questions.

1. Describe the strange skills that the father shows in the poem.
Father William shows a number of strange skills. He can _____
2. Why is Father William no longer afraid of doing headstands?
When he was young, Father William used to be _____
3. Give examples to show that Father William loves to eat and argue.
4. Which lines show that Father William makes fun of himself?
5. After answering three questions, how did Father William react to his son's fourth question?

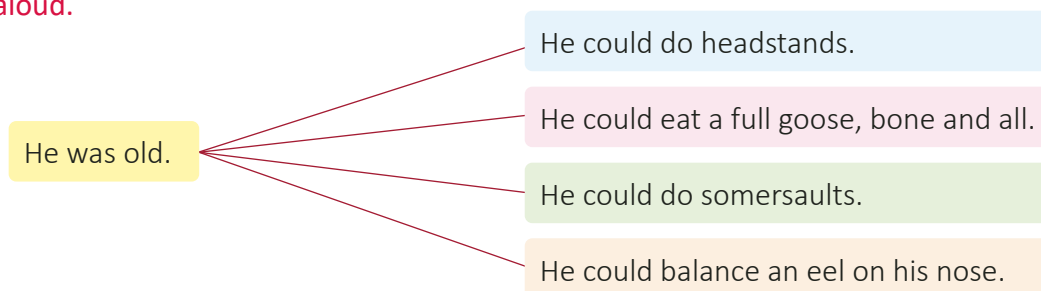
C. Think and answer.

1. Describe the character of Father William based on the poem. (Hint: humorous, playful, full of life)
2. A nonsense poem is a fun poem that uses silly words and absurd ideas without clear meaning. Explain with examples how 'You Are Old, Father William' is a nonsense poem.

D. Count the number of times the phrase 'You are old...' and 'In my youth...' occur in the poem.

As you know, a word, phrase or line is often used multiple times in a poem to stress upon a sound, a feeling or an idea and to create rhythm. This is called **repetition**.

E. Join the sentences using **in spite of**, **despite**, **though** or **although**, as shown. Say them out aloud.



In spite of being old, he could do headstands.
 He could do headstands **despite** being old.

He could do headstands **although** he was old.
Though he was old, he could do headstands.

The Road Not Taken

Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Adverbs of degree are also called **intensifiers**. They make the meaning of the adverb or adjective stronger. Intensifiers are placed before the adverb or adjective they intensify. Words like 'very', 'so', 'too', 'really', 'rather', 'extremely' are common intensifiers.

- M. Imagine you are the narrator of 'Falling Leaves'. Complete this diary entry expressing your happiness at finally succeeding in your mission to make a wish on a falling leaf.

15 March 2025

Dear Diary,

A **diary entry** is a personal record of thoughts, feelings, experiences and reflections written by an individual.

Today was a day of magic. I finally caught a _____!
It sounds silly, I know, but after all my attempts and the teasing from my _____, it felt like a huge victory. We had just finished a tiring but exhilarating game of _____, and as we rested on the _____, I was handed a _____. I'd popped it into my mouth when _____ shouted, "_____!" My heart raced. I couldn't let this chance slip away. I dashed after the leaf, my mind racing with thoughts of _____. Should I wish for good grades? A spot on the _____? Or maybe that _____ I've been dreaming about? But then, I remembered my _____ and _____ who had been away for so long. I shut my eyes and wished for _____. As my friends cheered me on, I felt like I was in a movie. When asked _____, I fibbed and said I _____ because they _____. But deep down, I knew that keeping my wish a _____ would give it a better _____. I can't wait to see if my wish _____.

[Your Name]

- N. Imagine you are Ojas or any other member of the 'gang'. Write a diary entry describing the same event from your point of view.
- O. Do you believe in superstitious practices like crossing fingers while making a wish or touching wood after making a hopeful statement to prevent bad luck? Why or why not? Discuss in class.

Chandrayaan: A Giant Leap

"Dadaji, India is on the moon—they're saying this on the news!" an excited Gayatri said to her grandfather.

She picked up Dadaji's phone, clicked on the news, and read out in a serious tone of voice, "The *Vikram* lander from India's Chandrayaan-3 mission, launched from Sriharikota on 14 July 2023, successfully landed on the moon today, that is, 23 August 2023, at 18.04 local time. It touched down near the lunar South Pole, a region of significant interest for scientific research."

"Yes," said a beaming Dadaji, "do you know, our country has made history by becoming the first to land in the moon's South Pole region?"

"South Pole? I thought only the earth had a South Pole!" grinned Gayatri.

"Like the earth, the moon too has poles called the North Pole and the South Pole. And just as Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen was the first to reach the earth's South Pole, India has become the first to explore the moon's South Pole from such close quarters. And

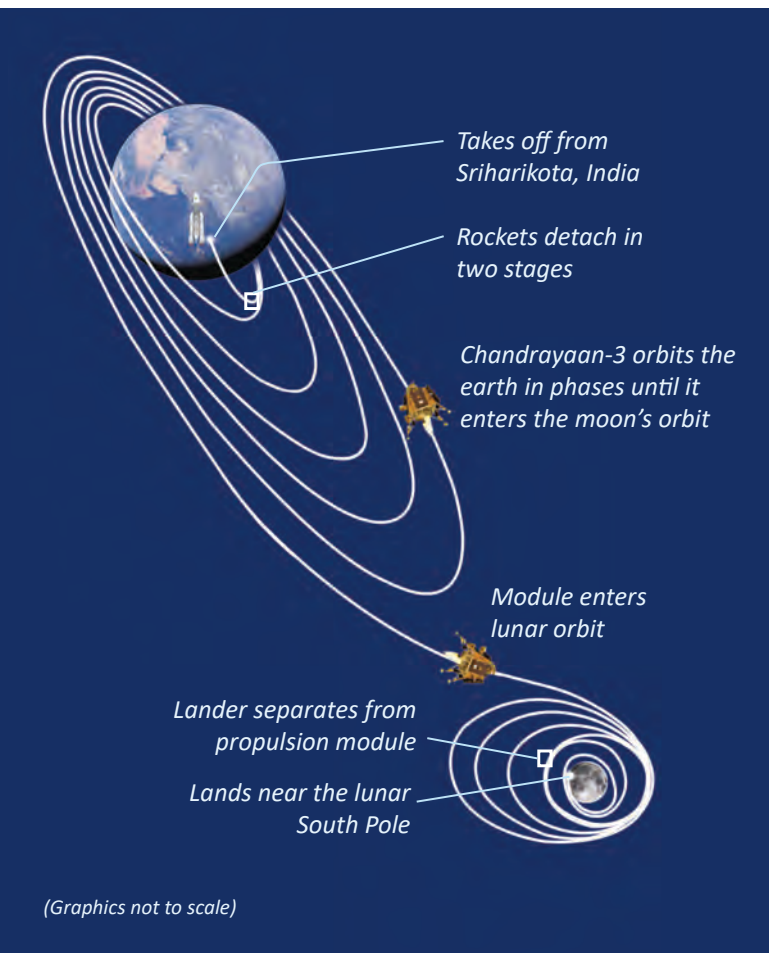
that's not all, India has also become one of the few countries who have achieved a soft landing on the moon."

"A soft landing?" Gayatri asked.

Gayatri's grandfather, who was a retired scientist, explained, "A soft landing refers to a controlled landing of a spacecraft on the moon's surface, where the vehicle touches down gently without crashing or causing damage. This is crucial for missions that aim to deploy **landers** or **rovers**, as it allows them to carry out scientific experiments on the moon's surface."

lander a spacecraft designed to land on a planet or moon

rover a spacecraft designed to move on a planet or moon

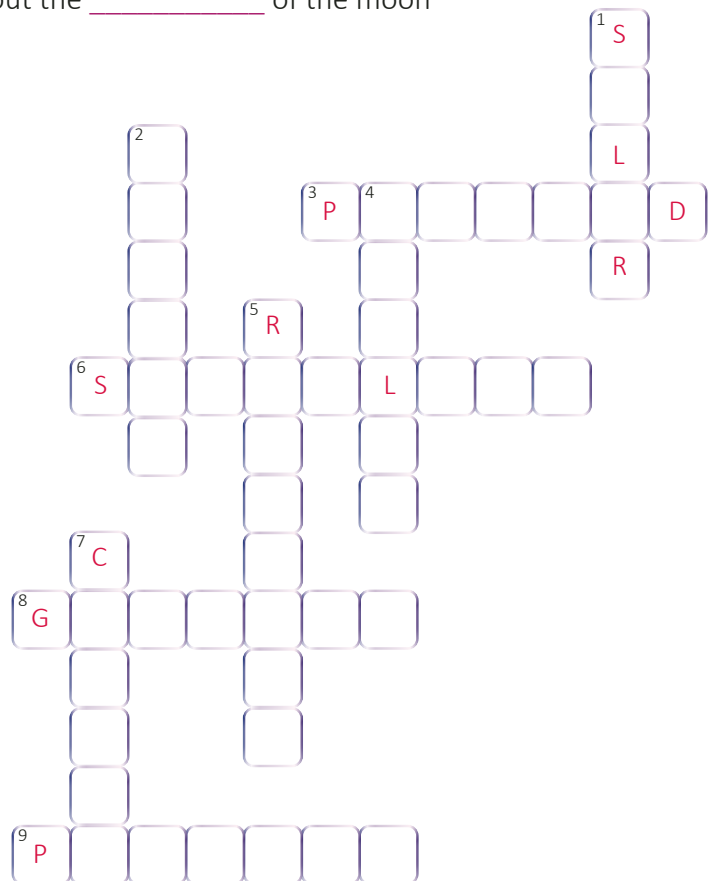


L. Listen to the audio clip and fill in the blanks. 🎧

1. The lunar South Pole is very important because it has _____.
2. The water molecules are in the form of _____.
3. Ice has been found in the permanently shadowed _____ near the South Pole.
4. The water molecules are trapped in this region because it is too _____ for them to evaporate.
5. Studying the ice can tell us more about the _____ of the moon

M. Use the clues to solve the crossword.

1. Space missions rely on _____ power for their operations.
2. Chandrayaan-3 lander
3. The equipment carried by a spacecraft
4. The mission that took humans to the moon for the first time
5. The topmost layer of the moon's surface made up of loose dust, sand, etc.
6. The moon is the earth's only natural _____.
7. a bowl-shaped depression on the moon's surface
8. The force that attracts objects in space towards each other; it is much weaker on the moon than on the earth (about 1/6th).
9. Chandrayaan-3 rover



N. The moon is truly fascinating. Did you know these facts about the moon? Find out some more amazing facts.

- The moon always shows the same side to the earth. This is because its rotational period is the same as its orbital period.
- The moon has no atmosphere, which means there's no air, weather or sound on the moon!
- The moon has dark areas called 'seas', which are large plains of solidified lava.
- Footprints on the moon last for millions of years. Since there's no wind or water to erode them, the footprints left by astronauts during the Apollo missions are still there!

Poirot Plays a Mind Game

Adapted from Agatha Christie's 'The Tragedy of Marsdon Manor'

Poirot and Hastings investigate the mysterious and sudden death of Mr Maltravers, who had recently insured his life for a large sum. As they question the doctor and the widow at Marsdon Manor, some puzzling details come to light. Also, the appearance of an unexpected visitor, Captain Black, raises questions about his connection to the events leading up to Mr Maltravers' death.

Characters Hercule Poirot, Captain Arthur Hastings, Mrs Maltravers, Captain Black, the gardener

Scene 1 Outside Marsdon Manor

(A stranger walks towards Marsdon Manor. A gardener is raking leaves. Poirot and Hastings walk up to the gardener.)

Poirot Tell me, who was that gentleman? Do you know him?

Gardener I don't remember his name, sir, though I did hear it. He was staying down here last week for a night. Tuesday, it was.

Poirot (to Hastings) Quick, **mon ami**, let us follow him! (They pursue the stranger and see a pale-faced Mrs Maltravers standing in the **foyer**, facing the man.)

Mrs Maltravers (staggering) Captain Black? You're back ... I thought you were at sea—on your way to East Africa.

Captain Black (calmly) I got some news from my lawyers that detained me. My old uncle in Scotland died unexpectedly and left me some money. Under the circumstances, I thought it better to cancel my passage and take lodging at the Anchor Inn. Then I saw the bad news in the paper and came down to see if there was anything I could do.

(At that moment, they notice Poirot and Hastings nearby.)

Poirot (stepping forward with a bow) A thousand pardons for this intrusion, madame, but I left my stick in the hall.

mon ami (French) my friend
foyer a lobby, corridor or waiting room in a house, hotel, theatre, etc.



I. Make abstract nouns from the adjectives as shown.

- | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. happy | <u>happiness</u> | 6. confident | <u>confidence</u> | 11. active | <u>activity</u> |
| 2. sad | <u> </u> | 7. patient | <u> </u> | 12. loyal | <u> </u> |
| 3. dark | <u> </u> | 8. significant | <u> </u> | 13. complex | <u> </u> |
| 4. weak | <u> </u> | 9. absent | <u> </u> | 14. generous | <u> </u> |
| 5. helpless | <u> </u> | 10. intelligent | <u> </u> | 15. simple | <u> </u> |

J. Make abstract nouns from the verbs as shown.

- | | | | | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. accept | <u>acceptance</u> | 4. achieve | <u>achievement</u> | 7. create | <u>creation</u> |
| 2. perform | <u> </u> | 5. enjoy | <u> </u> | 8. educate | <u> </u> |
| 3. resist | <u> </u> | 6. retire | <u> </u> | 9. observe | <u> </u> |

K. Fill in abstract nouns to complete these proverbs. Check your answers with your partner.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Brevity is the soul of <u>wit</u> . | 6. <u> </u> favours the brave. |
| 2. <u> </u> makes the heart grow fonder. | 7. <u> </u> is the best policy. |
| 3. <u> </u> lies in the eye of the beholder. | 8. <u> </u> is power. |
| 4. <u> </u> is next to godliness. | 9. <u> </u> makes perfect. |
| 5. <u> </u> goes before a fall. | 10. <u> </u> killed the cat. |

A **proverb** is a well-known phrase or sentence that gives advice or says something that is generally true.

L. Read the paragraph. How many abstract nouns can you find?

Grandma is a storehouse of wit and wisdom. Her experience has taught her the value of patience, and she often shares stories that highlight the importance of kindness and understanding. In her presence, there is a sense of comfort that makes everyone feel at ease, and her insight into life's challenges inspires us to approach our own struggles with courage and resilience.



The bar-headed geese make an awe-inspiring journey from a lake in China to India, over the Himalayas, every year. Find out which other birds migrate to India in winter.

"It is time now to seek the land
That lies beyond these icy peaks,
Tonight we must rise as one
And go to find our destiny."

Upon an icy **crag** stood the geese
Under a sky black as coal,
A daunting journey lay ahead—
A **void** without a light in sight.

Madness it was to soar and fly
Madness to leave familiar ground,
Madness to brave the icy winds
And chase **phantoms** of the mind.

The young one stood on the edge,
The hammering of his little heart
Drummed deafeningly in his ears,
His **leaden** wings hung low.

How leave the safety of his home?
How plunge without an end in sight?
How know that his wings could bear
The **travails** of the long flight?

It was madness, no, death to dream
That the journey would end right
Flesh and blood could never last
Through **wolfish** winds howling shrill.

"On ... go on ... " pushed the mother,
"There's not a moment to be lost,
No bird has ever lived to tell
Of winter in this mountain home.

"Your wings are stronger than you think,
Your eyes are keener than you know,
Trust in the wisdom of the geese,
And drown in resolve fears that slow."

crag a high, steep, rough mass of rock
void a large empty space
phantom a thing that exists in your imagination
leaden heavy
travail hardship
wolfish fierce





Do and Learn

As you know, an aphorism is a short statement that expresses a general truth or piece of wisdom. Let's play a game of matching a few aphorisms with their meanings.

- Write the aphorisms on the board.
- Write the meanings on index cards and shuffle them.
- Take turns and match an aphorism to its correct meaning.
- Discuss the answers and share a real-life example where the aphorism applies.

1. All the world's a stage.
2. A thing of beauty is a joy forever.
3. A rose by any other name would smell as sweet.
4. The child is father of the man.
5. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.
6. The pen is mightier than the sword.
7. Where there's smoke, there's fire.
8. When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.
9. The grass is always greener on the other side.
10. Easy come, easy go.
11. When in Rome, do as the Romans do.
12. All that glitters is not gold.

The essence of something remains unchanged regardless of what it is called.

Beautiful things bring lasting happiness and appreciation.

Life is like a performance; everyone plays different roles.

Our childhood experiences shape who we become as adults.

Deep knowledge, not superficial understanding, is necessary for wisdom.

Words and ideas are more powerful than violence.

Follow the customs of the place you're in.

If there are signs of a problem, there's probably a real issue.

People often think that others are in a better situation than them.

Things that are acquired easily are often lost just as easily.

Turn a bad situation into something positive.

Not everything that looks valuable or attractive is genuinely so; appearances can be deceptive.



WIZARD'S WORKSHOP

A. Complete the passage by choosing from the options that follow.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers ^(a) ____ the development of machines capable of performing tasks that require human intelligence. It has advanced rapidly ^(b) ____ the past few years, raising concerns ^(c) ____ its ethical implications and impact on jobs. Experts believe AI can contribute ^(d) ____ solving global challenges if used responsibly.

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|------------|---------|
| a. i. on | ii. in | iii. at | iv. to |
| b. i. over | ii. with | iii. since | iv. for |
| c. i. for | ii. about | iii. over | iv. on |
| d. i. to | ii. on | iii. at | iv. in |

B. The following paragraph has not been edited. There is an error in each line. Write each error, along with its correction, as shown.

1. The Rosetta Stone is an ancient artefact discover in Egypt.

x ✓
discover discovered

2. It features inscriptions in three different script, aiding

3. scholars in decipher hieroglyphics. This stone has played

4. a pivotal role towards revealing the secrets of ancient Egypt.

C. Rearrange the following groups of words correctly to form meaningful sentences.

1. traditional /is a / Haiku/ Japanese / poetry / form

2. short /uses / just / three / it / lines

3. word / care / is / chosen / each / with

4. capture / nature's / often / the / poems / beauty

Moonlit pond glistens,
Shadows dance on gentle waves,
Night whispers softly.

D. Identify and correct the errors.

1. Each of the boys were given a prize.

5. He asked me where was I going.

2. Agatha Christie is one my favourite author.

6. Neither of the candidates have come yet.

3. He don't like to go to the bank.

7. She has been working here since five years.

4. She is used to wake up early in the morning

8. The book, as well as the pen, were on the table.