

A Fragment
(Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)

Awake! Arise! The hour is late!
Angels are knocking at the door!
They are in haste and cannot wait,
And once departed come no more.

Awake! Arise! the athlete's arm
Loses its strength by too much rest;
The fallow land, the untilled farm,
Produces only weeds at best.

Words

Meanings

fragment	piece, portion
haste	speed, swiftness
departed	gone away
fallow	barren, unplanted

Paraphrase

Wake up and rise from your bed. It's too late now. The angels are knocking at your door. They are in a hurry and cannot wait for you any more. Once they go away, they won't come back.

Wake up and rise up without any delay. If you continue taking rest you will lose your strength and become useless like a barren land and uncultivated farm that produces nothing but weeds only.

EXERCISES

1.
 - i. Write down the rhyming words used in the poem.
 - ii. Write two more rhyming words in each line.
 - a) arise, _____, _____.
 - b) knock, _____, _____.
 - c) weed, _____, _____.

2. Answer the following questions.

- i. What advice does the poet give to the late riser?
- ii. What is the benefit of early rising?
- iii. What is meant by fallow land?
- iv. What is the theme of the poem?
- v. Explain the last two lines of the poem.

3. Use the following words in sentences of your own.

awake, wait, departed, strength, produce

4. Fill in the blanks.

- i. Angels are knocking _____ your door.
- ii. They cannot wait _____ you.
- iii. They will not come back _____ their departure.
- iv. The athlete loses his strength _____ taking too much rest.
- v. Fragment means separate or in _____ part.

5. Ask your class fellow about five advantages of rising early.

6. Contractions

Contractions are the shortened forms of verbs. They represent the sounds of speech. Contractions are written to show subject-verb combinations or negative-verb combinations.

Example: I am__ I'm, I have__ I've, I had__ I'd, I will __ I'll,
we have__ we've, You are__ You're, he is __ he's,
It is__ it's, it had__ it'd, They had__ they'd,

I have not__ I haven't, You have not__ you haven't,
She does not__ she doesn't, They are not__ They aren't

Exercise: Use contractions in the following sentences.

- i. I have missed my school bus.
- ii. They had a pleasant party.
- iii. It is not a fine day.
- iv. You are a genius boy.
- v. We have passed the admission test.