

My Mother
(Ann. Taylor)

Who sat and watched my infant head,
When sleeping on my cradle bed
And tears of sweet affection shed?
My Mother.

Who dressed me in clothes nice and gay
And fondly taught me how to play
And minded all I had to say?
My Mother.

Who ran to help me when I fell,
And would some pretty story tell,
Or kiss my head to make me well?
My Mother.

And can I ever cease to be
Affectionate and kind to thee,
Who was so very kind to me?
My Mother.

When thou art feeble, old and grey
My healthy arm shall be thy stay
And I will soothe thy pains away.
My Mother.

Words

Meanings

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| cradle | an infant's bed esp. on rockers |
| affection | love, good feelings |
| fondly | lovingly |
| minded | listened to and cared about |
| cease | come or bring to an end, stop |
| feeble | weak, lacking energy |
| stay | support |
| soothe | to comfort, to calm |

Notes:

(a) The poetess expresses her deep love for her mother. She explains to herself that it was her mother who had always been with her and who watched her when, as a child, she dozed off to sleep in her cradle.

Her mother dressed her up in pretty and colourful clothes and played with her when the poetess was a small child. She listened attentively to all what she said to her.

Her mother told her stories and kissed her forehead when the child fell and hurt herself. There was no end to the love and care she gave her when she was small and was growing up.

She says that she can never think of being less affectionate or unkind to her mother. When her mother is old, feeble and weak, the poetess feels that it is her duty to look after her and to comfort her in her healthy strong arms.

(b) Thee, thou, thy are poetic expressions, used in old English for the second person.

| | | |
|------|---|-----|
| thee | } | you |
| thou | | |

| | | |
|----------|---|---------|
| thou are | : | You are |
| thy | : | your |
| thine | : | yours |

EXERCISES

Answer the following questions:

1. What are the poetess' feelings about how her mother treated her when she was a small child?
2. What does she remember about her mother's care when she fell?
3. How is the poetess planning to treat her mother in her old age?
4. Express your feelings about your mother or father in a short essay about 200 words.

Double negatives:

Words containing NO or NOT are called negatives.

Examples: No, not, nobody, nothing, nowhere, none, not ever.

Note: Two negatives should never be used together in the same sentence.

Examples:

Wrong: He did not tell me nothing about her.

Right: He did not tell me anything about her.

Choose the correct word from the pairs given below to complete each sentence.

Example:

nothing, anything

- a) Javed did not tell his father anything about it.
- b) Javed told his father nothing about it.

1. **nowhere, anywhere**

- a) We could not find the book _____.
- b) The book was _____ to be found.

2. **nothing, anything**

- a) The passenger did not pay the coolie _____ for his help.
- b) The passenger paid the coolie _____ for his help.

3. **never, ever**

- a) Don't you _____ get tired of sewing clothes?
- b) Do you _____ get tired of sewing clothes?

4. **nothing, anything**

- a) There isn't _____ wrong with this bicycle.
- b) There is _____ wrong with this bicycle.

5. **no, any**

- a) There isn't _____ food left on the table.
- b) There is _____ food left on the table.

6. **nobody, anybody**

- a) We didn't see _____ in the house.
- b) We saw _____ in the house.

7. **none, any**

- a) I asked Rafia for five rupees but she had _____.
- b) I asked Rafia for five rupees but she hadn't _____.

8. **no one, anyone**

- a) We can't trust _____ these days.
- b) We can trust _____ these days.

9. **no, any**

- a) I looked every where but couldn't find _____ book stall.
- b) I looked every where but could find _____ book stall.

Proverbs:

A short familiar saying in general use expressing a supposed truth or moral lesson is called a proverb.

Learn these proverbs and their meanings.

| | |
|--|---|
| Charity begins at home. | Be kind to relatives before showing kindness to strangers. |
| What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. | One person should be entitled to the same treatment as another person. |
| It is never too late to mend. | However old a person may be, it is not too late for him to reform. |
| Every cloud has a silver lining. | However dark the present may seem the future holds something brighter. |
| A bird in hand is worth two in the bush. | It is wiser to accept an offer now than to depend on a better offer you may have in future. |