

**The Blessings of God**  
(Cecil Alexander)

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful,  
The Great God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colours,  
He made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountain,  
The river running by,  
The sunset and the morning,  
That brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,  
The pleasant summer sun,  
The ripe fruit in the garden,  
He made them every one.

The tall trees in the greenwood,  
The meadows where we play,  
The rushes by the water,  
We gather every day.

He gave us eyes to see them,  
And lips that we might tell,  
How great is God Almighty,  
Who has made all things well.

Words	Meanings
glowing	shining
purple-headed mountain	mountain with a reddish peak
meadows	grassy grounds, pastures
rushes	grassy plants
almighty	all powerful

## EXERCISES

### Notes:

The poetess describes beautiful objects of nature around us to make us conscious of God's blessings. The beautiful flowers, the singing birds, the mountains, the sunset and tall trees move us to praise God and to be grateful to Him for His gifts.

### I. Comprehension:

1. What are the objects of nature which remind us of the glory and greatness of God?
2. Write a summary of the poem.
3. Prepare a list of the rhyming words in the poem (*Example: small, all*)

### II. Vowels and consonants:

English has 26 letters of alphabet. These letters are divided, according to sound, into:

- (a) Vowels: a, e, i, o, u
- (b) Consonants: All letters from b to z excluding the above vowels.

When we produce a vowel sound, our breath flows out of our mouth freely, without any stop, friction or obstruction.

But when we produce a consonant sound, say 'b', 'p', 'm', our lips meet to stop our breath.

In the case of the vowel sound 'u', you will note that it sounds more like 'y' in the word 'you' which is a consonant sound. It will sound as a vowel if we say 'oo' like in 'fool', 'put', 'book'. This is very important. You must remember this point.

### III. Syllables:

When we say a word by just one sound of the voice, such a word is said to be of 'one-syllabic'.

Thus words like 'fish', 'hand', 'friend', 'school', 'show', are one-syllabic words. It is the sound and not spelling that is important. All the following are one-syllabic words:

book, each, night, rule, plough, loud, bright.

Words that need two sounds from the voice are called two-syllabic words. Here are some:

but-ter (butter)                      kind-ness (kindness)  
dra-ma (drama)                        stu-dent (student)

If there are three voice sounds in a word, we say it is a three-syllabic word, e.g.,

but-ter-cup                      beau-ti-ful                      lib-ra-ry  
ma-na-ger

This division of a word into syllables is very important in learning the correct pronunciation of a word. Take, for example, the word 'present'. It is a two-syllabic word: pre-sent.

Now if we say the first part louder than the second: PREsent, the word will mean 'gift' (noun) or the opposite of absent (*adjective*). If we say the second part louder as PreSENT, it means to offer (verb). In English, this is known as 'stress'.

There are many two-syllabic words which have a different meaning if their first syllable is stressed and are quite different if the second syllable carries the stress, e.g.,

CONtract (noun)	:	an agreement
conTRACT (verb)	:	opposite of expand
OBject (noun)	:	thing that can be seen or touched
objEct (verb)	:	to say that one does not agree to something

Stress is important for the correct pronunciation of words also. The word 'library' is a three-syllabic word. We stress the first syllable for correct pronunciation. The word is LIBrary. So is the word MANager.

All good dictionaries indicate the headwords in bold letters divided into syllables. They also show the primary and other stress for the correct pronunciation of words. Try to understand them:

Write the following words in columns showing how many syllables they have:

**Example:**

<u>One syllable</u>	<u>Two syllables</u>	<u>Three syllables</u>
free	English	following

school, blackboard, teacher, chalk, tuck shop, bicycle, transport, policeman, doctor, Urdu, cricket, election, difficult, leader, important, primary, understand, sofa, patient, medicine, injection, plough, rough, thought