

A Simple Support to First Bell Online Class

Std. 10 - English on 13-11-2020

The Ballad of Father Gilligan

By W. B. Yeats

Dear children,

Today's class is dealt with the first four stanzas of The Ballad of Father Gilligan, written by W. B. Yeats.

Profile of the author:

William Butler Yeats (1865 -1939) is an Irish poet and one of the foremost figures of 20th century literature. In 1923, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for his 'inspired poetry'. Yeats is one of the few writers who completed his greatest works after being awarded the Nobel Prize which include The Tower (1928) and The Winding Stair and Other Poems (1929).



What is a ballad ?

Ballad:

a) song/poem narrating a story

b) simple language

c) quatrain : four - line stanza

(ഒരു കഥ വിവരിക്കുന്ന പദ്യത്തെയോ പാട്ടിനെയോ ആണ് **ballad** എന്നു പറയുന്നത്)

Summary of the first four stanzas:

Father Peter Gilligan was an old priest. He was tired of continues work. Half of his parishioners were either in bed or dead and buried. He had to administer the funerals. So he was tired. One evening, he was sitting on a chair. He was sleepy and tired. Then , the father was called to treat a poor sick man. Father Gilligan was unhappy to be called at this time. He murmured that he had no rest ,nor joy , nor piece because people were going on dying. Then he thought that he should not have said so. He asked forgiveness to the god. He said that it was his body , not his mind that made him say so. He knelt. Leaning on a chair , he started praying. He fell asleep there. Night came. Stars appeared in the sky.

ഈ കവിതയുടെ മലയാളത്തിലുള്ള അർത്ഥം അറിയാൻ നെറ്റ് ഓൺ ചെയ്ത ശേഷം ഇവിടെ ക്ലിക്ക് ചെയ്യുക

Meaning of words or expressions:

Weary : tired of continues work ക്ഷീണിതൻ

Flock : (here) people in the parish ഇടവകക്കാർ

Grieve : feel sad സങ്കടം വരിക

In their beds : they are **bedridden** രോഗികളാവുക.

Green sods : grave ശവ കുടീരങ്ങൾ.

Nod : move one's head up and down

Spake (old English) speak

Peep : look

(Answer key is given at the end of this document)

Activity - 1 : Read the first four stanzas and answer the questions.

1. Who is the main character in this poem ?
2. What is the situation ?
3. What does these two stanzas tell us about Father Peter Gilligan ?
4. What do we know about the people in his parish ?
5. Why was Father Peter Gilligan waery ?
6. Why was he unhappy ?
7. What are Father Peter Gilligan's complaints ?

Activity - 2 :

Prepare a summary of the first four stanzas

Answer Key

Activity -1

- 1.Father Peter Gilligan
- 2.An epidemic is spreading there in the village and people are dying everyday
- 3.He is very old. He is tired. He is busy night and day
- 4.Half of the people were either in bed or dead and buried.
- 5.He treats the sick people and conducts burial of the dead.
- 6.He was unhappy because half of his people were either in bed or dead and buried.
- 7.He complains that he has no rest and no entertainments

Activity - 2

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