

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
SECONDARY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME
SEPTEMBER 2020

WEEK NINE: Lesson One

SUBJECT: English A GRADE 8

TOPIC: Comprehension

SUB-TOPIC: Understanding Poetry

OBJECTIVES:

- After reading and discussing the poem ‘ I Don’t Like’ by Lucia and James L. Hymes Jnr., Grade 8 students will correctly answer questions based on same.

Instructions: Read the poem below and answer ALL the questions that follow.

I DON’T LIKE

I DON’T, I DON’T

I hear a million don’ts a day.

No matter what I do they say...

Now don’t do this,

And don’t do that,

Don’t interrupt,

Don’t tease the cat,

Don’t bite your nails,

Don’t slam the door,

Don’t leave messes on the floor.

Don’t shout,

Don’t fight,

Don’t spill your food.

Now don’t talk back and don’t be rude.

Don't let the dog climb on your bed.
And don't forget what I just said.
Don't track in mud,
Don't slip,
Don't run.
Don't lose your cap,
Don't point that gun.
Don't touch that tray,
Don't touch your clothes,
And don't forget to blow your nose.
Don't climb that tree,
And don't fall down and skin your knee.
I don't like don't one little bit
Look! Now they've got me saying it!

Lucia and James L. Hymes Jnr.

Questions

1. Who is the speaker in this poem?
2. List FOUR things the speaker has been told not to do.
3. What does the speaker dislike?
4. What kind of activities does the speaker enjoy?
5. Is the speaker a boy or girl? Give ONE reason for your answer.
6. Explain the expression, "skin your knee" and "talk back".
7. Identify and give examples of TWO literary devices found in the poem.
8. Explain why parents or adults limit the actions of children?
9. How do you think children should respond to discipline? Why?
10. Is the title of the poem suitable? Explain.

Comprehension

ANSWER SHEET

1. A child.

2. Things the child was told not to do:
 - don't interrupt
 - don't tease the cat
 - don't bite his nails
 - don't lose his cap
 - don't touch his clothes

3. The speaker dislikes being told "don't". He hates that his actions have to be curtailed.

4. The speaker enjoys:
 - playing with his pets, friends.
 - running, walking in the mud
 - climbing trees
 - shooting with his toy gun

5. The speaker is a boy. This is evident from the activities he participates in, for example, playing with his toy gun, climbing trees.

6. Expressions explained:
 - "Skin your knee" means the bruising of the knee after a fall.
 - "talk back" means to give a counter statement or argument in self- defense.

7. Literary Devices:

Repetition

- “Don’t” is repeated throughout the poem.

Hyperbole

- “I hear a million don’ts a day”

8. Parents or adults limit the actions of children because at that stage children need the most guidance to help them in their journey to becoming responsible, independent adults.

9. Children need to respond positively to discipline; seeing it not only as an act of love on the part of the parent or adult but also as a necessary means of training them for the future.

10. Yes – the poem highlights things the speaker is not allowed to do.

No – the poet uses these verses to send strong messages of child rearing, discipline, childhood etc. Any of the aforementioned titles could have been used instead of the one given.