



মণিপুরৰ শাসন (অংক)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)
Government of Manipur

Lesson 14

A TRUE FRIEND

NOTES:

About the poet:

William Shakespeare was an English poet, playwright and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English Language and the world's greatest dramatist in all time to come. Born 26th April 1564 and died 23rd April 1616. His famous books includes Hamlet, Macbeth, Tempest, Shall I compare thee to a Summer's Day etc.

Substance of the poem:

The poem "A True Friend" written by William Shakespeare tells us that true friends are not those who praise us in good times but those who help us in time of need. A true friend can never be found easily. A person who flatters you is not a friend. Their words are like the winds which flow easily. He says that as long as you are a prodigal or spendthrift, all will be your friend but when your money is scant no one will be your friend. But a true friend will always be with you in your misery. If you are in sorrow they will be there with every grief of yours being part of you. This are the basic signs that differentiate a faithful friend and a flattering foe. The poet shows his disappointment and realization of the dark side of the human nature, their selfish motives taking undue advantages over others in the name of friendship. True friend must be treasured. The last line of the poem (which is alliteration) hints the qualities of choosing a friend.



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Word Meaning:

1. flatters: praises someone insincerely to gain something.
2. thee: you
3. faithful: loyal
4. misery: suffering of body and mind\ bad times
5. thy: your
6. thou: you
7. hast: have
8. crown: old British coin with 25 pence
9. scant: not enough\ shortage
10. prodigal: wasting of money or spendthrift
11. bountiful: gift from God\ beneficial
12. farewell: bidding someone goodbye
13. renown: popularity\ famous
14. fortune: destiny
15. grief: sadness



मानिपुर सरकार (अ.म.)
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