

POEM - 3

LINEAGE

Pre-reading activity:

- Have you ever felt weak?
- Do you think your forefathers were stronger than you are?
- Compare yourself to your grandfather or grandmother. List out some of their strengths.

(In this poem you will learn how old people are stronger than the youth. Here, the poet talks about her grandmothers and asks why she is not able to be like them)



My grandmothers were strong,
They followed ploughs and bent to toil
They moved through fields sowing seed.
They touched earth and grain grew.
They were full of sturdiness and singing.
My grandmothers were strong.



My grandmothers were full of memories
Smelling of soap and onions and wet clay
With veins roughly over quick hands.
They have many clean words to say.
Why am I not as they?

- Margaret Walker

Glossary :

- plough : a large tool used by farmers to turn over the soil before planting crops (plow-North American spelling)
- sturdiness : strength
- quick : busy

KHIDWAZ ENGLISH SCHOOL

Class: 5

Subject: ENGLISH

Topic: "LINEAGE"

Poem - 2

I. Answer the following questions:

1. What kind of life did the poet's grandmother lead?

Ans The poet's grandmother's led a very hard life. They ploughed the fields and sowed seeds.

2. List the different types of work the grandmothers of yesteryears could do.

Ans Sowing seeds, growing grains, bend to toil and filling the lands.

3. Why do you think the poet is not as strong as her grandmother?

Ans The poet agrees that he is not as strong as her grandmother because his grandmother with quick hands, she was smelling of soup and onion and wet clay with veins rolling over quick hands.

4. What aspects of the elderly people are appealing to the poet?

Ans Hard work still in the old age, dedication to the work they undertake, they can do any physical work.