



Government of Tamilnadu

Department of Employment and Training

Course : TNPSC Group II Exam
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Topic : **Important Lines from Poems**

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**Commissioner,
Department of Employment and Training.**



IMPORTANT LINES FROM POEMS

WHERE THE MIND IS WITHOUT FEAR

Rabindranath Tagore prays for a world without fear - one world held together by freedom. Tagore's poem overflows with a deep sense of patriotism and the power in every Indian to create that freedom which he should enjoy.

*Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high
Where knowledge is free
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
By narrow domestic walls
Where words come out from the depth of truth
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit
Where the mind is led forward by thee
Into ever-widening thought and action
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake*

- **Rabindranath Tagore**

THE SOLITARY REAPER

*Behold her, single in the field,
Yon solitary Highland Lass!
Reaping and singing by herself;
Stop here, or gently pass!
Alone she cuts and binds the grain,
And sings a melancholy strain;
O listen! for the vale profound
Is overflowing with the sound.*

*No nightingale did ever chaunt
More welcome notes to weary bands
Of travellers in some shady haunt,*

IMPORTANT LINES FROM POEMS

*Among Arabian sands:
A voice so thrilling ne'er was heard
In spring-time from the cuckoo-bird,
Breaking the silence of the seas
Among the farthest Hebrides.*

*Will no one tell me what she sings?
Perhaps the plaintive numbers flow
For old, unhappy, far-off things,
And battles long ago:
Or is it some more humble lay,
Familiar matter of to-day?
Some natural sorrow, loss, or pain,
That has been, and may be again!
What'er the theme, the maiden sang
As if her song could have no ending;
I saw her singing at her work,
And o'er the sickle bending –
I listen'd motionless and still;
And, as I mounted up the hill,
The music in my heart I bore
Long after it was heard no more.*

- William Wordsworth

GOING FOR WATER

*The well was dry beside the door,
And so we went with pall and can
Across the field behind the house
To seek the brook if still it ran*

*Not lath to have excuse to go,
Because the autumn eve was fair
(Though Chill), because the fields were ours,
And by the brook our woods were there*

*We ran as if to meet the moon
That slowly dawned behind the trees,
The barren boughs without the leaves,
Without the birds, without the breeze*

*But once within the wood, we paused
Like gnomes that hid us from the moon
Ready to run to hiding new
With laughter when she found us soon.
Each laid on other a staying hand
To listen are we dared to look
And in the hush we joined to make
We heard, we knew we heard the brook.*

*A note as from a single place,
A slender tinkling fall that made
Now drops that floated on the pool
Like pearls and now a silver blade.*

- Robert Frost.

THE PSALM OF LIFE

What the Heart of the Young Man Said to the Psalmist

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream! -
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.
Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.
Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each tomorrow
Find us farther than today.
Art is long, and Time is fleeting,
And our hearts, though stout and brave,
Still, like muffled drums, are beating
Funeral marches to the grave.
In the world's broad field of battle,
In the bivouac of Life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!
Be a hero in the strife!

IMPORTANT LINES FROM POEMS

Trust no Future, how'er pleasant!
Let the dead Past bury its dead!
Act, - act in the living Present!
Heart within, and God o'erhead!
Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;
Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.
Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to walk

- **H W Longfellow**

BE THE BEST

*It you can't be a pine on the top of the hill,
Be a scrub in the valley – but be
The best little scrub by the side of the rill;
Be a bush, if you can't be a tree.*

*If you can't be a bush, be a bit of the grass,
And some highway happier make;
If you can't be a muskie, then just be a bass-
But the liveliest bass in the lake!*

*We can't all be captains, we've got to be crew,
There's something for all of us here.
There's big work to do and there's lesser to do
And the task we must do is the near.*

*If you can't be a highway, then just be a trail,
If you can't be the sun, be a star;
It isn't by size that you win or you fail-
Be the best of whatever you are!*

- **Douglas Malloch**

SONNET 116

*Let me not to the marriage of true minds
Admit impediments. Love is not love
Which alters when it alteration finds,
Or bends with the remover to remove.
O, no! it is an ever-fixed mark,
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;
It is the star to every wand'ring bark,
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks
Within his bending sickle's compass come;
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.
If this be error and upon me prov'd,
I never writ, nor no man ever lov'd.*

- William Shakespeare

