

CHIVVY

[Working with the Poem]

Question 1. Discuss these questions in small groups before you answer them.

(i) When is a grown-up likely to say this?

Don't talk with your mouth full.

Answer: When kids are eating and have their mouths full.

(ii) When are you likely to be told this? *Say thank you.*

Answer: When someone offers something or when someone helps them.

(iii) When do you think an adult would say this? *No one thinks you are funny.*

Answer: When children are told to perform some activity and they are feeling shy.

Question 2: The last two lines of the poem are not prohibitions or instructions. What is the adult now asking the child to do? Do you think the poet is suggesting that this is unreasonable? Why?

Answer: In these lines, the adult is asking the children to take their own decisions. Yes, this is unreasonable because at all times, the grown-ups expect children to listen and follow the instructions of the adults blindly. And suddenly they want them to take their decisions.

Question 3: Why do you think grown-ups say the kind of things mentioned in the poem? Is it important that they teach children good manners, and how to behave in public?

Answer: Yes grown-ups say the kind of things mentioned in the poem in order to teach children the decent and proper ways of doing things. It is very important that the adults teach their children good manners and how to behave in public because they have experienced and learnt these things.

Question 4: If you had to make some rules for grown-ups to follow, what would you say? Make at least five such rules. Arrange the lines as in a poem.

Answer: (To be done by student)