

## 14. TREE

- Tina Morris

They did not tell us  
What it would be like  
Without trees.  
Nobody imagined  
That the whispering of leaves  
Would grow silent  
Or the vibrant jade of spring  
Pale or gray death.  
And now we pile  
Rubbish on rubbish  
In the dusty landscape  
Struggling to create  
A tree.

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But though the shape is right  
And the nailed branches  
Lean upon the wind  
And plastic leaves  
Lend colour to the twigs

We wait in vain  
For the slow unfurling of buds.  
And no amount of loving  
Can stir our weary tree  
To singing.

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### Comprehension

1. Answer the questions below: -
  - a. Who the poet means by 'they' in the first line of the poem.
    - i. **The people in general.**
    - ii. The parents of the poet.
    - iii. The readers of the poem.
    - iv. The people working in the garden.

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### Comprehension

1. Answer the questions below: -
  - b. What the poet means by 'it' in the second line of the poem?
    - i. The poem the poet has written.
    - ii. **Human life in general.**
    - iii. The poet's garden.
    - iv. The painting that the poet later describes in the poem.

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### Comprehension

1. Answer the questions below: -
  - b. What the poet means by 'it' in the second line of the poem?
    - i. The poem the poet has written.
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### Comprehension

1. Answer the questions below: -

c. The leaves whisper

i. When the children swing on them.

ii. When the birds sing among them.

iii. When they are green and the wind passes through them.

iv. When the people are taking a walk in the garden.

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### Comprehension

1. Answer the questions below: -

d. The third stanza of the poem describes

i. the heaps of dust lying around.

ii. the piles of dry leaves in the garden.

iii. The household waste thrown in the garden.

iv. The painter's effort to recreate a tree with paint and brush/plastic materials.

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### Comprehension

2. Answer the following questions below: -

1. What will happen if trees are not taken care of?

Ans. If trees are not taken care of the trees would die and gradually there will be no life on the earth.

2. What happens when the trees get dry?

Ans. When the trees get dry, the leaves will fall down and we cannot hear the whispering of leaves anymore.

3. What does the poet wait in vain for?

Ans. The poet waits in vain for the blossoming of buds into flowers in an artificial tree.



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### Comprehension

2. Answer the following questions below: -

4. What does the poet mean by piling rubbish on rubbish?

Ans. Collecting paints, brush or plastic materials to paint or make a tree are all waste materials like piling rubbish on rubbish.

5. How do the trees sing?

Ans. The trees sing when wind blows and fluttering of leaves sound like singing.

## GRAMMAR

GERUND tsj.M

**Apple** is good for health.

Subject – Noun / Pronoun

**Walking** is good for health.

Verb + ing = Noun

**GRAMMAR**

**Gerund Construction**

You must admit ~~that you~~ copying in the examination.

I don't remember that I ever promised to attend the function.

I don't remember ever promising to attend the function.

I don't remember that he ever promised to attend the function.

I don't remember his ever promising to attend the function.

## GRAMMAR

### Gerund Construction

4. I suggested that we should try a different approach.

I suggested **our** trying a different approach.

5. Do you mind if I close the window?

Do you mind my closing the window?

6. He hates to write letters.

He hates writing letters.

**GRAMMAR**

**Gerund Construction**

7. I don't anticipate ~~that I will meet~~ **any opposition.**  
I don't anticipate meeting any opposition.

8. Forgive me **because I had to interrupt** you.  
Forgive me **for interrupting** you.

9. He denied **that he had made** the statement.  
He denied **making** the statement.

**GRAMMAR**

**Gerund Construction**

10. I appreciate that you gave me so much of your valuable time.

I appreciate your giving me so much of your valuable time.

## GRAMMAR

### (III) Gerund Construction

1. I insisted.

I must see the certificate.

Answer: - I insisted on seeing the certificate.

2. He admitted.

He had **taken** the money.

Answer: - He admitted taking the money.

3. He stopped

He used to **smoke**.

Answer: - He stopped smoking.

## GRAMMAR

### (III) Gerund Construction

4. It's no good.

You are **arguing** against the law.

Answer: - It's no good your **arguing** against the law.

5. He regretted.

He had written a rude letter.

Answer: - He regretted for writing a rude letter.

6. I can't understand it.

She has left the job.

Answer: - I can't understand her leaving the job.



**GRAMMAR**

**(III) Gerund Construction**

7. I remember.

She told me to collect the laundry on my way back.

Answer: - I remember her telling me to collect the laundry on my way back.

8. I can't stop him.

He is (He's) spending his own money.

Answer: - I can't stop him his spending his own money.

6. Forgive me.

I had to ring up so early.

Answer: - Forgive me for ringing up so early.

**GRAMMAR**

**(III) Gerund Construction**

10. You teach.

Do you enjoy it?

Answer: - Do you enjoy teaching?