2. The Useful Plough



A country life is sweet
In moderate cold and heat
To walk in the air, how pleasant and fair,
In every field of wheat.
The fairest of flowers adorning the bowers,
And every meadow's brow;
So that I say, no courtier may
Compare with them who clothe in grey,
And follow the useful Plough.

They rise with the morning lark,
And labour till almost dark;
Then folding their sheep, they hasten to sleep;
Next morning is ringing with birds that are
singing
On each green, tender bough.
With what content and merriment
Their days are spent, whose minds are bent
To follow the useful plough!

(Old Song)

Glossary

bower support for climbing plants **adorning** beautifying **meadow** field with green grass **bough** larger branch of a tree **merriment** fun

Comprehension

C. 1 State whether the statements are true or false.

1. The poem is about farm life and the countryside. T F
2. The village life is unpleasant. T F
3. The farmers in countryside are unhappy with the hardships in farming. T F
4. Ploughing is an act of satisfaction for farmers. T F

C. 2 Answer the questions in brief.

1. How long do the farmers work in their fields?
2. How does the poet describe the country life in the poem?
3. What makes the morning pleasant for the farmers?