

Beauty

What is beauty? Try to describe what beauty is, or list some of the things or persons you think are beautiful.

Now let us read a poem on beauty.

*Beauty is seen
In the sunlight,
The trees, the birds,
Corn growing and people working
Or dancing for their harvest.*

*Beauty is heard
In the night,
Wind sighing, rain falling,
Or a singer chanting
Anything in earnest.*

*Beauty is in yourself.
Good deeds, happy thoughts
That repeat themselves
In your dreams,
In your work,
And even in your rest.*

E-YEH-SHURE

WORKING WITH THE POEM

1. The poet says, “Beauty is heard in ...”

Can you hear beauty? Add a sound that you think is beautiful to the sounds the poet thinks are beautiful.

The poet, Keats, said:

Heard melodies are sweet,
But those unheard are sweeter.

What do you think this means? Have you ever ‘heard’ a song in your head, long after the song was sung or played?

2. Read the first and second stanzas of the poem again. Note the following phrases.

corn growing, people working or dancing, wind sighing,
rain falling, a singer chanting

These could be written as

- corn that is growing
- people who are working or dancing

Can you rewrite the other phrases like this? Why do you think the poet uses the shorter phrases?

3. Find pictures of beautiful things you have seen or heard of.
4. Write a paragraph about beauty. Use your own ideas along with the ideas in the poem. (You may discuss your ideas with your partner.)