

About Me



I have not one but two names,
'Hey you!' And 'What's your name?'
That is how I am known
And I have no one else to blame.

Who would remember someone
Who is good at nothing?
Who has, can or ever will
Excel even in a single thing?



Some are good in studies
Others in many a game.
Some paint a pretty picture
And earn for themselves a name.



But what about me?
I have nothing that can impress a single soul,
Neither talent nor looks, nor ability
To achieve a solitary goal.

But wait, am I really useless?
Only some flesh and bones?
Or do I have something inside me
A quality that is truly my own?

A heart that beats for others
And joys and sorrows it shares
A mind that looks beyond
A soul that truly cares.

In this world today
If a loving heart is a treasure
Then I pray to everyone
To judge me using a new measure.

Don't judge me by how many prizes I never win
But by how many sorrows I share.
Not by the number of claps I don't earn
But by my ready stock of compassion and care.

Don't ignore me, don't look through
Pay me a little heed.
A little nod, a friendly smile,
That is all I need.

I am an average and ordinary boy
Treat me at least like a person.
Give me a name, anything that you like
But please, at least, make me feel human.

Ramendra Kumar

About the poet

Ramendra Kumar is an award winning Indian writer for children. He has written more than 20 books so far. His books have been translated in seven foreign and eight Indian languages.

Meanings in context

excel	:	perform very well
solitary	:	single
compassion	:	concern for the suffering or misfortune of others
heed	:	notice

Comprehension

I. Tick (✓) the right answer.

The speaker in this poem is-

- (a) An average and ordinary boy
- (b) A topper in the class
- (c) A good sports man
- (d) A good singer

II. Answer the following questions.

1. What is the speaker's complaint?
2. People called the speaker by two names. What are they?
3. Every human being has some good qualities in him/her. Find out the good qualities in the speaker.
4. The speaker tells us about the qualities that others possess but he doesn't possess. Name those qualities.
5. What is the poet's demand?
6. Recite the poem and find the rhyming words used in the poem.
7. Which words and phrases are repeated in the poem and why?
8. The poet doesn't want to be judged by the prizes he never wins or by the number of claps he doesn't earn. He requests everyone to judge him by using a new measure. What is the new measure he is suggesting?

