

2.3 The Twins

Warming up!

Chit-Chat

1. Two babies born at the same time are called twins. Guess and share who are :
 - triplets
 - quadruplets
 - quintuplets
2. Imagine you had an identical twin (brother or sister). Imagine and share with your classmates what pranks you two would play on your friends, elders in the family and even in school.

1. Study the following pairs or groups of words. Cup and saucer/needle and thread/birds and beasts/take a risk/sip tea or coffee/hide and seek etc.

These are sets of words that more than often go together and occur together. We call such sets **Collocation**.

Insert the proper words from the bracket to form collocations.

- (a) afford (b) time (c) defeat (d) clothes (e) owners (f) necessary (g) role
(h) interview (i) morning (j) cold

- (a) absolutely (f) accept
(b) cannot (g) early
(c) formal (h) catch a
(d) job (i) leading
(e) pass (j) joint

2. Exaggeration or overstatement often causes humour. For example, She is thin as a pin.

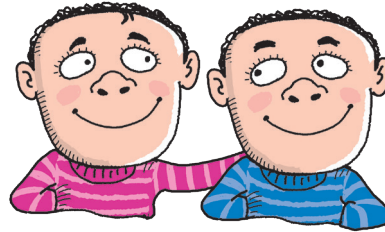
- He has a pea-sized brain
- My shoes are killing me.

When such exaggerated lines occur in poetry, they are examples of the Figure of Speech; **Hyperbole**.

Complete the following examples of Hyperbole using words from the bracket below.

- (a) She wept of tears.
(b) The hungry man ate a of food.
(c) He runs faster than a
(d) Brrrr..! I am freezing to
(e) I shall come over in just a
(horse/lion/death/an ocean/ton/second/help)

The Twins



- **form and feature** : structure and appearance
 - **taking** : (here) mistaking
 - **kith and kin** : relatives
 - **pitch** : limit, height
- ✦ In what aspects were the brothers alike?

- **decree** : order
 - **whim** : a sudden change of mind
 - **christened** : name given to a baby at the naming ceremony
 - **fatal** : leading to disaster or death
 - **dogged** : continued to follow
 - **flogged** : beaten up
- ✦ What name did the speaker get?

- ✦ How did the speaker suffer at school?

In **form and feature**, face and limb,
I grew so like my brother,
That folks got **taking** me for him,
And each for one another.
It puzzled all our **kith and kin**,
It reached a fearful **pitch**;
For one of us was born a twin,
Yet not a soul knew which.

One day, to make the matter worse,
Before our names were fixed,
As we were being washed by nurse,
We got completely mixed;
And thus, you see, by fate's **decree**,
Or rather nurse's **whim**,
My brother John got christened me,
And I got **christened** him.

This **fatal** likeness even **dogged**
My footsteps, when at school,
And I was always getting **flogged**,
For John turned out a fool.
I put this question, fruitlessly,
To everyone I knew,
'What would you do, if you were me,
To prove that you were you?'

Our close resemblance **turned the tide**
 Of my domestic life,
 For somehow, my intended bride
 Became my brother's wife.
 In fact, year after year the same
 Absurd mistakes went on,
 And when I died, the neighbours came
 And buried brother John.

- Henry Sambrooke Leigh

- **turned the tide:**
changed the situation
- ♦ What is impossible in the last two lines?

ENGLISH WORKSHOP

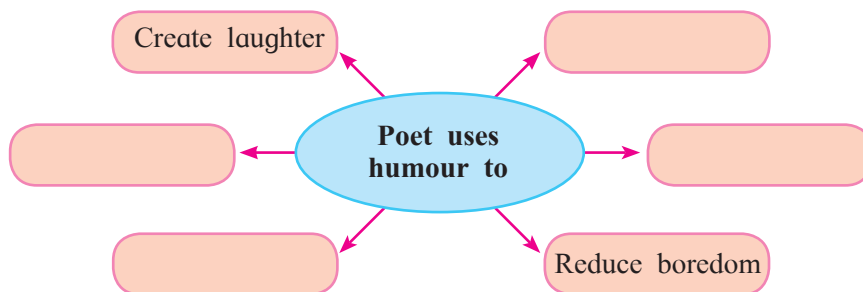
1. Rewrite putting the mistakes in the speaker's life, in their proper order.

- (a) The speaker got beaten-up, often, at school.
- (b) The speaker's bride became his brother's wife.
- (c) The speaker desperately asked for guidance.
- (d) No one in the family could distinguish between the twin-babies.
- (e) At the naming ceremony wrong names were given to the two twin brothers.
- (f) Even in death, the twins were not spared during burial.

2. Pick out four situations in the lives of the twins, which are too absurd and senseless to believe.

- (1) (2) (3) (4)

3. (A) Complete the web diagram.



(B) Write any two lines from the poem, that you find most humorous.

- (i)
- (ii)

4. Pick out lines that contain :

- Alliteration (a)
(b)
(c)
- Pun (a)
(b)
- Hyperbole (a)
(b)

5. Pick out from the poem sets of words that generally go together.

For example, kith and kin.

- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)

6. Write in your notebook, the summary of this poem in about 15 to 20 lines in your own words.

You can suggest another humorous title.

7. Write an Appreciation of the poem with reference to all the points mentioned on Page 5.

