

## 4.1 What is Success?

# UNIT 4

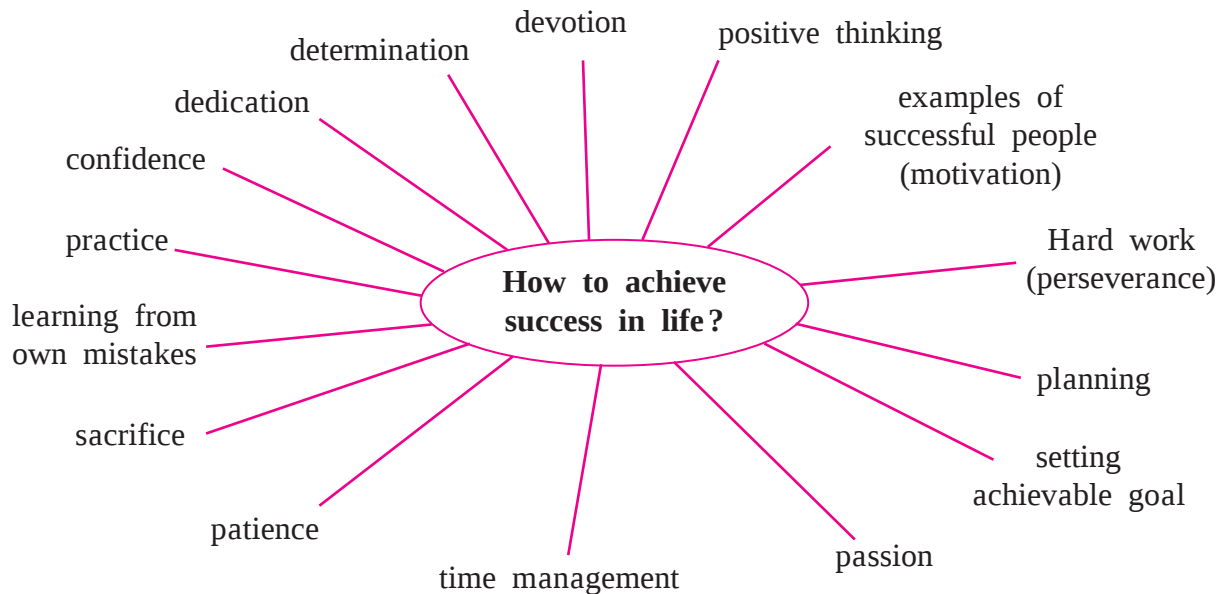
### Warming up!

#### Chit-Chat

- Do you have a hobby?
- Do you play a musical instrument?
- What is the latest thing that you learnt to do?
- Have you ever taught someone else to do something?



1. Prepare a speech to deliver in an interschool competition on 'How to achieve success in life' with the help of the following web chart.



2. What might success mean to the following people? Think about it and write.

- A student .....
- A businessman .....
- A doctor .....
- A sportsman .....
- A politician .....
- A person who has applied for a job .....
- A teacher .....
- A parent .....

## What is Success?

- ◆ How many sentences are there in the poem?

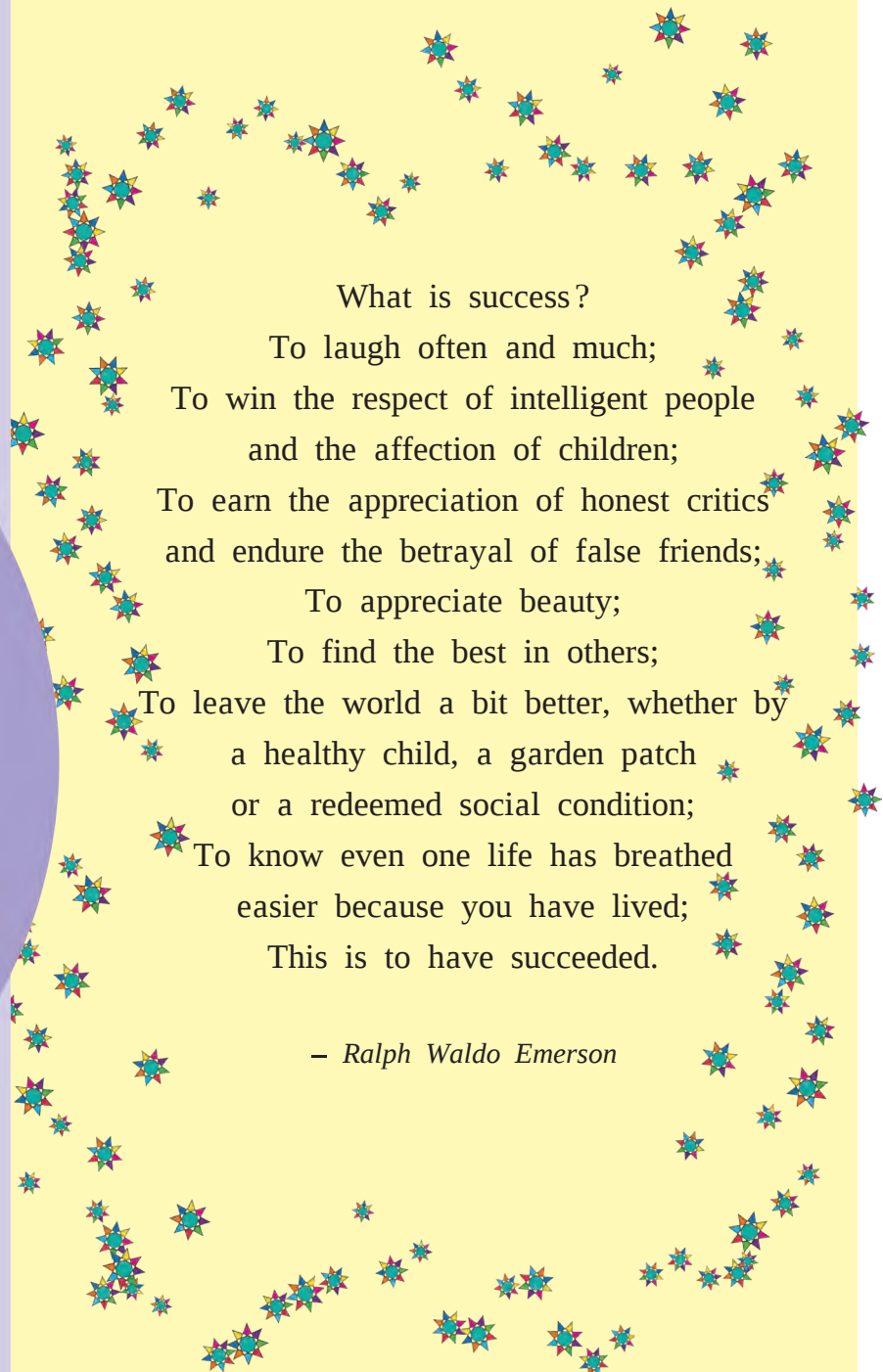
- endure : tolerate, put up with.
- betrayal : deception, cheating

### Think, discuss and answer :

- ◆ Who wins the respect of **intelligent** people?
- ◆ Who wins the affection of **children**?
- ◆ Who is appreciated by **honest** critics?
- ◆ What type of friend betrays a friend?

- redeemed : made better

- ◆ Which lines tell you that a parent, a good gardener, a social reformer are all successful people?



What is success?  
To laugh often and much;  
To win the respect of intelligent people  
and the affection of children;  
To earn the appreciation of honest critics  
and endure the betrayal of false friends;  
To appreciate beauty;  
To find the best in others;  
To leave the world a bit better, whether by  
a healthy child, a garden patch  
or a redeemed social condition;  
To know even one life has breathed  
easier because you have lived;  
This is to have succeeded.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



1. Tick the correct alternative.

(i) The poet says that success is –

- (a) to laugh less and work more (b) to laugh never at all  
(c) to laugh often and much (d) to laugh less and low

(ii) The poet wants us to –

- (a) earn a lot of money (b) earn profits  
(c) earn property (d) earn the appreciation of honest critics

(iii) The poet wants us to appreciate –

- (a) riches (b) God (c) beauty (d) society

(iv) The poet wants us to leave the world a bit

- (a) bitter (b) better (c) broader (d) bared



2. Compare this poem with ‘Walk a little slower...’ and fill in the chart.

| Structure of the poem                         | Walk a little slower | What is Success? |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Does it have rhyming words?                   |                      |                  |
| Does it have a steady rhythm?                 |                      |                  |
| Are the lines of equal length?                |                      |                  |
| Are there stanzas with equal number of lines? |                      |                  |

The poem ‘What is Success?’ is an example of free verse.

3. Based on the poet’s idea of true success, think of four people in your surroundings – your family, neighbours, friends, teachers, classmates, etc. who have achieved true success. **Write in short** what makes them successful.

4. List all the ‘to infinitive’ verb forms used in the poem.

5. In your opinion what things will help to make the world a better place? Discuss with your friends and write down at least three of the things.

6. Think of different types of people who have to face great difficulties. Write what you can do to help at least one of them.

7. **Prepare a set of questions to interview –**

- (a) a famous author (b) a well-known social worker in your area.