



4.1 Double Standards

When I wake up late,
I'm getting very lazy.
When you wake up late,
it's the alarm that's crazy.

When I say 'No' to something,
I'm being stubborn.
When you say 'No' to something,
you are being firm.

When I raise my voice,
it is shocking and rude.
When you raise your voice,
you're teaching me to be good.

When I break something,
I am clumsy or careless.
When you break something,
it slipped; you were helpless.

When I do something wrong,
I am such a terror
When you do something wrong,
it's a forgivable error.



- stubborn : A stubborn person does not change the way he acts or thinks though it may not be nice.
- firm : A firm person takes a good decision and does not change it.
- clumsy : without skill or neatness
- terror : Here, it means a person who gives great trouble.
- forgivable : If something is forgivable it is not serious and one can stop being angry about it.
- error : a mistake.

When I quarrel with a friend,
I am wild and naughty.
When you quarrel with a neighbour,
you're only doing your duty.

So, I am always wrong
and you are always right.
Oh, why do people grow up
and spoil a child's delight?

• delight : joy



ENGLISH WORKSHOP

1. List all the words that the grown-ups in the poem use for the child.
2. List all the situations described in the poem. For example, waking up late.
3. Find the antonyms of : lazy, rude, firm, careless, wrong.
4. Translate the following into your mother tongue.
stubborn, firm, careless, helpless, clumsy, naughty.
5. Use any one situation in the poem and write two short speeches using words and ideas from the poem.
 - (a) a speech in which the grown-up scolds the child.
 - (b) a speech in which the grown-up explains why his / her own actions are right.For example, Situation : Raising one's voice.
 - (a) **Grown-up** : Don't shout. It's rude to shout. How dare you raise your voice !
It's shocking.
 - (b) **Grown-up** : I have told you again and again. You don't listen to me. I don't like to shout, but you make me shout at you.
6. Form two groups and discuss the following statements. One group should support the statement and the other group should oppose it. You may use English or your mother tongue wherever necessary in the discussion.

Statement One : A grown-up is always right.

Statement Two : A child is always right.

