

Suffering And Hurt

- 1 a) Read the 'letter to God'.
 - i) Make a list of five things in the world which you think are very bad.
 - ii) Put them in order starting with the worst. Explain why you have put them in that order.
 - b) Read the 'reply' from God.
Try to explain why there are bad things in the world.
 - c) If you could write a letter to God about what's going on in the world, what would you write?
- 2 Make a collage of newspaper stories and pictures about bad things happening.
Give your collage a title – for example, 'Our Broken World'.

Dear God, why do You allow all the hatred and suffering to go on in the world? You could do something about it. You have the power. I can't pick up a newspaper or watch TV without seeing suffering and violence going on everywhere. In my own life I try to do my best, but there's always someone, or something, to spoil my happiness and make me feel miserable. Sometimes I think You created us just to make us suffer. Dear God, why are things like this?

My child, forgive Me. Forgive Me for planting in every human the free will to choose. To choose My way or another, selfish way. Forgive Me for blessing you with talents to use for the healing of My world. You see, I have no hands on earth but yours. I help with your hands, comfort with your voice, spread joy with your smile. Forgive Me for asking you to love one another as I love each and every one of you, even when you leave Me. And then when you turn back to Me and admit the wrong you have done, forgive Me, please, for forgiving you.

Poison Tree

I was angry with my friend:
I told my wrath, my wrath did end.
I was angry with my foe:
I told it not, my wrath did grow.

And I watered it in fears,
Night and morning with my tears;
And I sunned it with smiles,
And with soft, deceitful wiles.

And it grew both day and night,
Till it bore an apple bright.
And my foe beheld it shine,
And he knew that it was mine.

And into my garden stole,
When the night had veiled the pole;
In the morning glad I see
My foe outstretched beneath the tree.
William Blake

Extension

The poem was written in 19th Century by the famous poet and artist William Blake.

- a) Read the poem carefully.
Explain what you think it is about.
- b) Explain what the 'poison' in the tree is and how it was made.



WRATH - anger
FOE - enemy
DECEITFUL - cunning, sly
WILES - tricks
BEHELD - gazed at
STOLE - crept
VEILED - covered