## DR. H. N. SINHA ARTS AND COMMERCE COLLEGE, PATUR.

## FACULTY OF COMMERCE AND MANAGEMENT B.COM. II SEMESTER III SUBJECT: COMPULSORY ENGLISM

Leisure

W. H. Davies

☐ Wiliam Henry Davies (1871 1940) was a Welsh poet and writer. ☐ At age 22, with a small inheritance, he left for New York, and spent the ☐ following six years working and begging his way across America. ☐ His experiences of a life spent as a tramp are documented in his two memoirs ☐ The Autobiography of a Super-Tramp and Young Emma. ☐ His outdoor life is reflected in his poetry as he dealt with themes such as human hardship □ human conditions as reflected in Nature and his own tramping adventures and the characters he met. Davies is considered one of the most popular Georgian poets. By 1929 he was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Wales owing to his popularity and literary reputation. ☐ Ten years later, his home town of Newport unveiled a plaque in his honour

- The poem, divided into seven rhyming couplets, is as relevant today as it was during the earlier part of the 20h century.
- The poet laments the fact that modern man, in the feverish pursuit of material success, has little time for the quiet and beauty of nature.
- The poet believes that it indeed is a poor life if man is so preoccupied with own worries
  and anxiety that he has forgotten to appreciate the simple joys of nature.
- This poem sums up the essence of modern life in its of-quoted couplet: "What is this life, if full of care /We have no time to stand and stare?" He calls upon man to enjoy the natural beauty around him.

## LEISURE

What is this life if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare.

No time to stand beneath the boughs And stare as long as sheep or cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass, Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight, Streams full of stars, like skies at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance, And watch her feet, how they can dance.

No time to wait till her mouth can Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this is if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare.

WRITTEN BY
WILLIAM HENRY DAVI

What is this life if, full of care,

We have no time to stand and stare.

No time to stand beneath the boughs

And stare as long as sheep or cows

No time to see, when woods we pass,

Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight,

Streams full of stars, like skies at night

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,

William Wordsworth

And watch her feet, how they can dance.

No time to wait till her mouth can

Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this if, full of care,

We have no time to stand and stare

## Glossary

full of care: full of worries and tensions

stare: observe

woods: forests

boughs: branches of trees