

School's Goodbye

Lord Eustace Percy

A. Lead – in :

This is your final year in school. You will say goodbye to your school soon after your test examination is over, won't you ? Your last day at school will be a sorrowful one as you are going to leave it for good. You won't be able to enjoy life at your school ever again. You feel emotionally attached to your school. When you say goodbye to it, it is like saying goodbye to your own family. But your education does not end here. You move out from school to the wider world to prepare yourself for facing the challenges in life. Read the lesson to learn how to face the reality of life.

B. The Text :

You are now about to leave school and before you go we desire to send you our best wishes for your future **welfare**.

Although you are **parting from** school in which you have spent so many years, we hope you will not forget it and think that your education is finished. In whatever trade or profession you desire to follow, you will soon find that, if you are **ambitious to succeed** in it, you must continue your education.

Success in life is not easily **secured**; it only comes to those who work hard and continue learning.

Very soon you will require to choose a trade or profession. Choose with the greatest care and avoid **as far as** you can any occupation that leads nowhere. Aim rather at work that has in it the promise of an interesting and happy future ; and if at first you are forced to take a job that can only last for a short time, try to get one, as soon as possible, that is to your liking. If at any time you are in doubt **as to** the choice you should make, do not hesitate to ask advice from one of your teachers.

Success in life depends largely on good health. Keep your body fit, and by cleanliness, fresh air, regular habits, and suitable **recreations**, make yourself strong to play the game, and to do it in every sense of the word. Avoid anything that will **sap** your health. Smoking in your youth **stunts** the body, and **clouds** the brain. Be temperate in all things, and **beware of** drink. It is the deadly enemy of health and efficiency.

Above all remember that your character is a priceless possession. Keep it therefore **untarnished**. Be truthful in all things, **considerate** to everybody, fair to your rivals, kind and helpful to all who are weak and suffering, and do not be afraid to have courage to stand up for what is good, pure and noble. Avoid gambling in every form; it is a mean game trying to get something for nothing and at somebody's cost.

Make provision for hard times.

In your leisure hours, avoid mere idling. Fill such hours with interesting hobbies, good books, and with companionships and associations calculated to exercise over you an influence for good. To a large extent, you will be known by the company you keep.

With a sound mind in a sound body, a good character, courteous manners, and loyalty to the duties of your nation and its high ideals, you will, by God's grace, be a credit to your family, a good citizen, and in your whole life, a real success.

C. About the Author :

The essay "School's Goodbye" conveys a message to school children by Lord Eustace Percy, a former Minister of Education in Britain. You will benefit from reading it as it tells students how to become good human beings and citizens in future.

D. Notes and glossary :

welfare	:-	the health and happiness of people.
part from	:-	to leave someone
ambitious	:-	actively seeking success, wealth, status etc.
succeed	:-	to achieve a desired aim
secure	:-	to obtain something
as far as	:-	to the extent that

as to (formal)	:-	about, concerning
recreation	:-	a hobby, amusement, game or pastime
sap	:	gradually weaken
stunt	:-	to prevent something or somebody from growing properly
cloud	:-	to make uncertain or confused
beware of	:-	be careful, be on your guard against something
above all	:-	most importantly
untarnish	:	free from / without any black spot
considerate	:-	unselfish, giving thought to the happiness and comfort of others

E. Let's understand the text:

- Q.1. Who is the speaker in the essay ? Who are the audience ?
- Q.2. What does the speaker speak about ?
- Q.3. What is the wrong notion pupils generally have when they say goodbye to their school ?
- Q.4. Why is it necessary to continue your education even after leaving school ?
- Q.5. What care should be required for the choice of a profession ?
- Q.6. What should you do if you are forced to take up a job you do not like ?
- Q.7. Who should you seek advice from if you are not able to decide on the right profession ?
- Q.8. What are the things that prevent someone from achieving success ?
- Q.9. What is most essential for achieving success in life ?
- Q.10. How can you keep in good health ?
- Q.11. What should we avoid to remain healthy ?
- Q.12. What is the priceless possession of an individual ?

- Q.13. How can one's character be kept sound and strong ?
- Q.14. What should be avoided to safeguard one's character ?
- Q.15. How should one spend one's leisure hours ?
- Q.16. How can an individual prove himself an asset to the nation ?

F. Let's understand the text better :

- Q.1. Who are the real audience in the essay ?
- Q.2. Why does the speaker advise the audience to continue their education after school ?
- Q.3. Why do students seek advice from their teachers ?
- Q.4. How does good health help you ?
- Q.5. What is the harmful effect of smoking ?
- Q.6. Why is drink called the deadly enemy of health and efficiency ?
- Q.7. Why is character a priceless possession of a human being ?
- Q.8. Why should we help the weak and the suffering ?
- Q.9. What do you mean by hard times ?
- Q.10. How can we spend our leisure hours wisely ?
- Q.11. How can we achieve real success ?

G. Let's read between the lines:

1. Even after school one should continue one's education.

Suggest various ways in which one can continue learning.

- a. Self - study (One has been suggested for you)
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

2- We should seek advice from our teachers.

Our teachers advise us to

- a. work hard our studies. (One has been mentioned for you.)
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

3- We must make provisions for hard times.

Hard times

Provisions

Monetary crisis

Savings (One has been done for you.)

4- We should be loyal to our nation and be good citizens.

List the duties of a good citizen

- 1. Sacrifice for the nation (One of the duties has been stated for you)
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____

H. Let's listen and speak:

Discuss in pairs / groups.

- I. Rights of a good citizen
- II. Duties of a good citizen

Students are divided into two groups. One group will discuss "Rights of a good citizen". Another group will discuss "Duties of a good citizen".

The discussion will take place under the guidance of the teacher.

I. Let's learn some words :

(i) Match the words under 'A' with their meanings under 'B'

A	B
beware of	polite or well-mannered
untarnished	mercy
stunt	chiefly or mainly
for good	habit of betting money
above all	honest
courteous	be careful
grace	pure and bright
largely	permanently
gambling	stop something from growing
fair	most importantly

(ii) Express the following in a single word :

- i. the health and happiness of people
- ii. having ambition
- iii. to obtain something
- iv. profession or a job of a person
- v. to prevent something or somebody from growing properly
- vi. too valuable to have a price
- vii. quality of being loyal
- viii. to weaken someone's strength slowly
- ix. quality of being efficient
- x. be on your guard against something

(iii) Convert the following verbs to nouns and frame sentences :

calculate, associate, consider, educate, hesitate, profess, occupy

(iv) Write “the -ing” forms of the following verbs :

decide, make, occupy, part, begin, gamble, sap, promise, forget, study, provide.

J. Let's learn language :

(a) Although / Though

Both the words ‘although’ and ‘though’ can be used as conjunctions. They are used to join two contrasting statements.

Ex. Although he is leaving school, he will not forget his school days.

We can now break the above sentence and make two independent sentences:

- i. He is leaving school.
- ii. He will not forget his school days.

Combine the following sentences using though / although

- i. My bicycle is very old. It will run well.
- ii. It was raining heavily. I went out without a raincoat.
- iii. The man is poor. He is happy.
- iv. He went on running. He was tired.
- v. The bus was overloaded. We were able to find seats.
- vi. My granny is eighty. She still likes singing devotional songs.
- vii. Bubli has a scooty. She often goes to school on foot.
- viii. They are sisters. They never talk to each other.
- ix. Jyotishree invited me cordially. I did not attend her birthday.
- x. The boy looks weak. He is really very strong.

b. Imperative Sentences

Look at the sentences below :

- a. Avoid anything that will sap your health.
- b. Make provision for hard times.
- c. Be a credit to your family.

In the above sentences the subject 'you' is not mentioned. These sentences express an order, a request, an advice, a command, a warning or a suggestion.

In the imperative sentences

the subject 'you' is usually not expressed.

the sentence can be made negative.

there is no change in tense, aspect, voice and modality.

Turn the following statements to imperatives.

1. I want you to go ahead.

Ans:- Go ahead

2. I want you to get up early in the morning.
3. The commander ordered the soldiers to march forward.
4. The doctor advised him to take this medicine after food.
5. The watchman warned you to beware of the dog.

K. Let's write :

The class is divided into groups, each group consisting of four or five students. The following areas are distributed among the groups. Each group is asked to prepare notes on the area given by making indepth analysis of the relevant portion of the text. They may also provide additional information from their experiences.

- Each group is expected to develop a write-up on the basis of the notes.
- Each group presents its note and write-up before the class.

Areas : Choosing a profession

Good health

Sound character

Use of leisure hours.

(Teacher may facilitate the activity.)

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