

Tender Heart High School, Sector 33 B Chandigarh

Subject: English Literature

Class: VI

Chapter: 19 Poem “A Boy and His Dog”

Poet’s Name: Edgar Albert Guest

Good morning students,

Today let us read and understand the poem “A Boy and His Dog” which is written by Edgar Albert Guest, Chapter-19 in your English Reader.

This poem praises the unbreakable bond between a boy and his dog. The boy and his dog share secret, adventures, and unconditional support, creating a bond and emphasize the depth and loyalty of their friendship.

Stanza 1:

- The poem begins by describing the friendship between a boy and his dog as "glorious" and unmatched.
- Their relationship is built on mutual companionship—they talk, walk, run, play, and share secrets together.
- The dog is not just a pet but a loyal companion who understands and feels deeply.
- The imagery of "walking down the road with a dog at his heels" symbolizes the dog’s unwavering loyalty and constant presence.

Stanza 2:

- The poet emphasizes the dog’s loyalty and unconditional love.
- Whether the boy gets dirty or indulges in mischief, the dog doesn’t judge or care.
- The dog remains faithful, eagerly following every command and responding joyfully to affection.

- The dog is portrayed as a priceless treasure—something invaluable and irreplaceable that no one can take away.

Stanza 3:

- The dog's devotion is absolute; no one can tempt the dog away from the boy's side.
- Material wealth, social status, or pride do not influence the dog—he is immune to superficial attractions.
- The dog's loyalty transcends all worldly distractions, and it remains steadfast "to death."
- The final line reflects the joy and freedom of youth, especially when shared with a loyal companion like a dog.

Theme and Message:

- The poem highlights the themes of **loyalty**, **unconditional love**, and the simplicity of pure friendship.
- It shows how a dog, with its genuine affection, can teach values like faithfulness and trust.
- The poet also underscores the happiness of youth and the importance of relationships built on sincerity and love.

This poem beautifully captures the essence of a boy-dog relationship, reminding us of the joy and comfort pets bring into our lives. It is a heartwarming tribute to the unmatched loyalty and companionship of dogs.