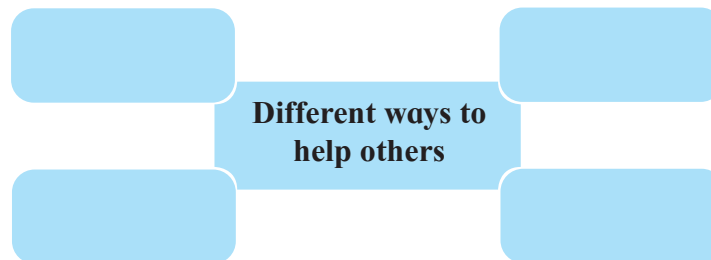


## 2.4 Have you Earned your Tomorrow

### ICE BREAKERS

- Complete the following web.



- Discuss with your partner about the different idioms / proverbs related to the word 'tomorrow'. One is done for you.

(a) Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today.

(b) .....

(c) .....

(d) .....

- When you make your future plans you think of -

(a) Career

(b) .....

(c) .....

(d) .....

- 'Plan your tomorrow' by completing the table given below.

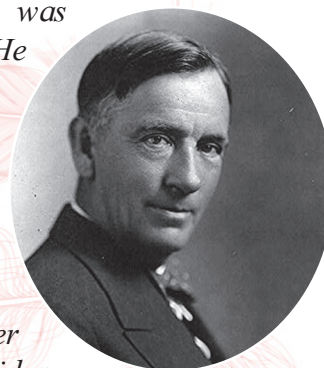
One is done for you.

Examination	College Function	Function at your home
.....	Preparing the list of duties	Cleaning the house
.....	.....	.....
Revision	.....	.....

**Edgar Guest (1881 to 1959)** was born in England and was brought to the United States when he was ten years old. He began his writing career in 1895 at the age of fourteen.

Edgar Guest is known as 'people's poet' for his simple style and optimistic tone of writing. Guest is an American writer of newspaper and magazines.

This is an inspirational poem. In this poem, the speaker is asking the readers whether they have done anything to improve the life of another human being or not. It is up to you whether you will have a better future or not. Therefore, one should consider one's actions and deeds carefully and plan accordingly for a better future.



## Have you Earned your Tomorrow

Is anybody happier because you passed his way?  
Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?  
This day is almost over, and its **toiling time** is through;  
Is there anyone to utter now a kindly word of you?

Did you give a cheerful greeting to the friend who came along?  
Or a **churlish** sort of "Howdy" and then vanish in the **throng**?  
Were you selfish pure and simple as you rushed along the way,  
Or is someone mighty grateful for a deed you did today?

Can you say tonight, in parting with the days that's slipping fast,  
That you helped a single brother of the many that you passed?  
Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said;  
Does a man whose hopes were fading now with courage look ahead?

Did you waste the day, or lose it, was it well or sorely spent?  
Did you leave a trail of kindness or a scar of discontent?  
As you close your eyes in slumber do you think that God would say,  
You have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today?

- Edgar Guest

**toiling time** : time spent in hard physical work  
**How do you greet your elders?**

**churlish** : rude

**Howdy** : an informal friendly greeting

**throng** : crowd, a large number



## BRAINSTORMING

(A1) Discuss with your friend how she/he spent the whole day that was beneficial for others.

- (a) .....
- (b) .....
- (c) .....

(A2) (i) ...‘was it well or sorely spent’? Explain the meaning and give illustrations.

(ii) ‘As you close your eyes in slumber do you think that God

would say,

You have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today?’

Elaborate the idea expressed in these lines.

.....

(iii) The poet suggests that one should do good to others. Complete the table by giving examples of doing good to following people.

Family members	Friends	Neighbours
(1) .....		
(2) .....		

(A3) (i) Pick out the describing words from the poem and add a noun of your own. One is done for you.

(Toiling) time	(Toiling) time
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....

(ii) Match the words given in column A with their meaning in column B.

**A**

- (1) Cheerful
- (2) Selfish
- (3) Sorely
- (4) Discontent

**B**

- (a) with the feeling of disappointment
- (b) lack of satisfaction
- (c) happy
- (d) concerned with one's own pleasure

(iii) There are a few examples of homonyms in the poem. For example ‘spoke’.

List homonyms from the poem and give their meanings.



- (iv) Find out expressions / phrases which denote, 'going away', from each stanza.

One is given below.

“Vanish in the throng”

- (A4) (i) The poet has used different poetic devices like Alliteration and Interrogation in the poem. Identify them and pick out the lines.

Poetic Device	Lines
(1) Alliteration	
(2) Interrogation	

- (ii) The rhyme scheme of the first stanza is 'aabb'. Find the rhyme scheme of other stanzas.

- (A5) (i) Write an appreciation of the poem considering the following points.

- \* About the poem / poet / title
- \* Theme
- \* Poetic devices, language, style
- \* Special features—tone and type
- \* Values, message
- \* Your opinion about the poem

- (ii) Prepare a mind map on 'How to plan a goal for tomorrow' or 'My future goal'. Take the help of points given in 'Writing Skills Section' for preparing a mind map.

- (iii) Write a set of 8 to 10 interview questions to be asked to a social worker. Take the help of the following points.

- \* Childhood
- \* Education
- \* Service
- \* Difficulties
- \* Future plans
- \* Achievements
- \* Message

- (iv) Compose 4-6 lines on your own on 'Good deeds'.

- (A6) (i) Find out different career opportunities in the field of social work.

- (ii) Collect information of the NGOs working for the underprivileged section of the society.

