

Animals

WALT WHITMAN

Learning Objective:

- ▶ To enable the students understand and enjoy the theme and language by reading the poem 'The Animals'.
- ▶ To enable the students to be specific in reflection, expression and individual opinion and deeper understanding of the Animals.

- ▶ In the poem 'Animals' Walt Whitman has given a pedagogic point before human beings.
- ▶ He is very comfortable in the company of animals.
- ▶ He says, animals are placid and self contained, do not whine and weep about their conditions, are always satisfied and do their duty towards God and express their love and respect towards human beings and lead a life of satisfaction and peace.

- ▶ *He desires to live Among Animals:* The poet desires to live among the animals because they are serene and self-contented. They are too wise to bewail over their condition. They weep for their sins and do their duty to God.
- ▶ *Quality of satisfaction:* The animals are always satisfied. They do not possess the mania of possessing things. They do not show respect for the others. They even do not respect their thousand old ancestors. They are equal in sorrow and happiness.

***Desire to learn from them:** The poet has a deep desire to learn from the animals, Since they show their deep concern. They give him respect in the shape of a token and show their plain feelings. They do not have any kind of falsehood. The poet is much surprised at their quality.*

Animals are living organisms that live by the order of Mother Nature; they are pure and clean, like the nature. The natural selection law is only rule that drives them and makes them equal in front of each other. And Walt wants to get that purity and live by the order of nature, but not the society rules, laws, rules, stereotypes of behavior, roles and status in the society. He sees in the animals something divine, that people have lost already. He says that animals symbolize the lost values like kindness, innocence ,self –containment of the human race .

The key to happiness : DO NOT COMPLAIN BUT ACCEPT THE SITUATION