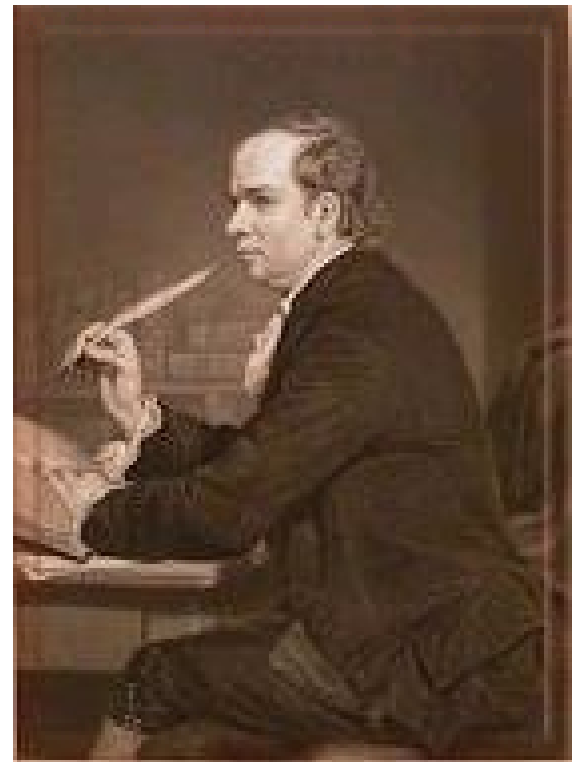
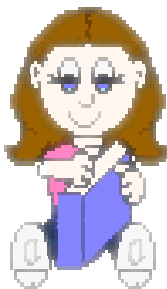
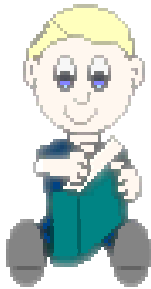


The Village School Master

Oliver Goldsmith

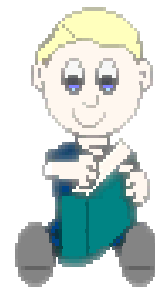
**Dr. S. SUBADHRA,
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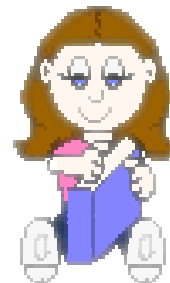
Poet:

- Oliver Goldsmith (1730-1774) was an English poet, playwright and novelist.
- His well known works are the novel “The Vicar of Wakefield”, the pastoral poem “The Deserted Village” and the popular comedy “She Stoops to Conquer”

- This is an extract from Goldsmith's long poem *The Deserted Village*, (which runs to 430 lines), one of the best known poems of the eighteenth century.

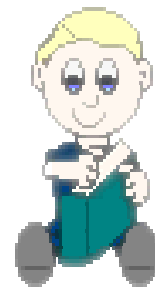


- This passage is a portrait of a teacher at the village school.
- The poet is looking back on a time when the village was lively and active whereas now no one lives there.



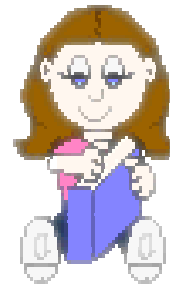
- Goldsmith's readers knew this as a reality - changes in land ownership, coupled with new job opportunities in machine production, had caused people to move from the country to the cities, leaving many villages without people.

- In doing so, Goldsmith represents the past as a kind of golden age - a better, kinder and happier time, certainly.
- Here he expresses admiration for the village teacher.
- He lists his personal qualities and gives details of the master's learning. But above all he shows how the schoolmaster belonged in his place - having the affection and respect of the whole community.



The poem in detail

- This poem is a simple sketch of village school master.
- The school was in a small village at Lissoy, an Irish village where the poet himself had studied.
- Mr. Thomas Paddy Byrne was the village school master



- As the poet himself was a pupil of this school master, he is able to create an authentic aura to the poem.
- It is amply obvious that Goldsmith looked upon the teacher with the mixed feelings of fear, respect, and humour
- The humour in the poem consists of gentle jokes, wry and genial, not big belly- laughs.

- Goldsmith manages to make fun of the school master's idiosyncrasies while maintaining reverence and admiration for him
- The school master- doing a good job in a quiet and simple place: helping to spread a little literacy and numeracy among the ordinary people of the village.

- The schoolmaster is gone long ago, with all the children of his school. A fine community has been lost.
- The poet is mourning the passing away of that community, the passing away of the village itself, now run-down and deserted.

THANK YOU