



CLASS IX
ENGLISH LITERATURE READER (POETRY)
CHAPTER 1
ABOU BEN ADHEM
(JAMES HENRY LEIGH HUNT)

NOTES

The poem “*Abou Ben Adhem*” has been written by **James Henry Leigh Hunt**. It is a narrative poem. In this poem, the poet says that Abou Ben Adhem was a pious man. He was very kind and gentle to his people. One night, he woke up from a sound sleep. As he woke up, he found a strange light in his room. An angel was writing something in a golden book. Abou picked up courage and asked the angel what she was writing. The angel replied that she was writing the names of those persons who love God. Abou asked if his name was there. The angel replied in negative. Abou did not lose heart and asked the angel to write his name as a person who loves his fellow men. The angel did so and went away.

Next night the angel came again and showed Abou the names of those persons whom God had blest (blessed). Abou was very much surprised and overjoyed to see his name at the top of the list.

POETIC DEVICES USED IN THE POEM

- Imagery**
- Visually descriptive/figurative language especially in a literary work
 - An angel writing in a book of gold.
 - And showed the names of whom the love of God had blest.
 - It came again with a great wakening light.
- Simile**
- A figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind used to make a description vivid/emphatic
 - Making it rich, and like a lily in bloom.
- Symbolism**
- The use of symbols to represent ideas/qualities
 - Angel, Light
- Assonance**
- The repetition of vowel sounds across a line of text or poetry, also called Vowel rhyme.
 - Making it rich and like a lily in bloom.
 - Abou spoke more low.
