

The Quarrel

Eleanor Farjeon

The Poet : Eleanor Farjeon was born on 13 February, 1881 in England. She was an author of children's stories, plays, poetry etc. She had poor eyesight and suffered from ill-health throughout her childhood. She describes her family and her childhood in her autobiography, *A Nursery in the Nineties* (1935). Farjeon died in Hampstead, London on 5 June, 1965.



I quarrelled with my brother,
I don't know what about,

One thing led to another
And somehow we fell out.

The start of it was slight,
The end of it was strong,

He said he was right,
I know he was wrong !

We hated one another.
The afternoon turned black.

Then suddenly my brother
Thumped me on the back,

And said, 'Oh, Come along !

We can't go on all night...

I was in the wrong.'

So he was in the right.

Word Notes :

fell out	: quarrelled
slight	: very small in amount
hated	: strongly disliked
afternoon turned black	: the afternoon became gloomy because of the quarrel
thump	: to hit someone and make a loud deep sound (here a friendly gesture)
come along	: to tell somebody to hurry

Summary : One day a sister quarrelled with her brother but the reason was unknown. They shouted at each other. The quarrel was mild at first. But it became strong in the end. Both claimed that they were right. They began to hate each other. They did not talk to each other till evening. The poet says that as they stopped talking to each other, the afternoon became gloomy and it seemed darker than ever. Then suddenly the brother decided to make up with his sister. He walked up to her and patted her on her back. He suggested that they should patch up. He admitted that he was at fault. Thus he did the right thing to develop an amicable relationship.

Answer the following questions :

- i) Who is the poet of the poem 'The Quarrel' ?
- ii) Whom did the sister quarrel with ?
- iii) What was the reason of the quarrel ?
- iv) What did the brother say at first ?
- v) Why did the brother say that the afternoon turned black ?
- vi) How did the quarrel come to an end ?
- vi) Find out some rhyming words from the poem.

