

## Lesson 15 ✓

## The Arrow and the Song

[**Henry Wadsworth Longfellow** was born in Portland in 1807. He was educated at Bowdoin College. He spent three years in Europe studying foreign languages. In 1835, he was appointed as the professor of modern languages at Harvard University. 'Evangeline' (1847) and 'The Song of Hiawatha' (1855) are his remarkable works. He translated Dante as well as many poets. He died in 1882.]

I shot an arrow into the air,  
It fell to earth, I knew not where;  
For, so swiftly it flew, the sight  
Could not follow it in its flight.

I breathed a song into the air,  
It fell to earth, I knew not where;  
For who has sight so keen and strong  
That it can follow the flight of song?

Long, long afterwards, in an oak  
I found the arrow, still unbroke;  
And the song, from beginning to end,  
I found again in the heart of a friend.



**The poem :** Everything we do, think or say has some value. Most of the time we may not guess the consequences immediately. The arrow shot by us in the air will surely fall somewhere. Like that everything we do or feel will leave their mark, unseen by us. We can see

the use of metaphor in the expression like 'the flight of song' which compares 'the song' to 'the arrow'. A metaphor is a comparison between two things without using the words 'like' or 'as' etc.

## Wordnote

swiftly	:	quickly, promptly
flight	:	the action of flying
breathed	:	took air into and sent out of the lungs
sight	:	ability to see ; vision
afterwards	:	at a later or future time
keen	:	sharp
oak	:	a large tree
unbroke	:	not broken

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## EXERCISE

1. Write the full name of H.W. Longfellow? 1
2. Who can follow the flight of a song? 1
3. Where did the poet find the arrow? 1
4. Why didn't the poet know where the arrow fell? 2
5. What does the poet actually mean by 'the arrow' and 'the song'? 2
6. Explain with reference to the context.  
'And the song, from beginning to end,  
I found again in the heart of a friend.'
7. Give rhyming words of the following.  $\frac{1}{2} \times 4 = 2$   
sight ; song ; oak ; end

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