

# 1

## RISKS

To laugh is to **risk** appearing the fool.  
To weep is to risk appearing **sentimental**.  
To reach out for another is to risk **involvement**.  
To expose feelings is to risk exposing your true self.  
To place ideas and dreams before a crowd is to risk  
being called **naive**.  
To love is to risk not being loved in return.  
To live is to risk dying. 8  
To hope is to risk despair.  
To try is to risk failure.  
But risk must be taken, because the greatest **hazard**  
in life is to risk nothing. 12  
The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing,  
is nothing, and becomes nothing.  
They may avoid suffering and **sorrow**, but they 16  
cannot learn, feel, change, grow, love, live.  
**Chained** by their certitude, they are **slaves**; they have  
**forfeited** their freedom.  
Only a person who risks is truly free. 20

**Janet Rand**

### **About the Poem :**

Risk is a motivational poem. Every act to be done by human beings anticipates risk : hope may result into despair and life into death. Risk is an integral part of life. We can say that life is full of risks and to overcome fear one needs courage. Success is all about having the courage to take risks.

The poet gives a message to all human beings to take risk if they want to

achieve something. If we don't take risks there is a chance for avoiding sorrow and painful situations in life ; but we will be missing so much. Without taking risks, we would not learn anything.

### **GLOSSARY**

risk (n)	:	a situation that could be dangerous or have a bad result
sentimental (adj)	:	undesirably emotional
involvement (n)	:	the act of taking active part or keen interest in something
expose (v)	:	bring to light
naive (adj)	:	showing a lack of experience
hazard (n)	:	danger
sorrow (n)	:	expression of sadness, grief
chained (v)	:	restrained
slaves (n)	:	people having no freedom of any kind
certitude (n)	:	a feeling of complete certainty
forfeited (v)	:	lost

### **ACTIVITY 2 : COMPREHENSION**

#### **A. Tick the correct alternative :**

1. What does the line 'To hope is to risk despair' express ?
  - (a) fear about failure
  - (b) fear about discouragement
  - (c) fear about some losses
  - (d) fear to being hopeless

#### **2. Who composed the poem "Risks" ?**

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| (a) Oliver Goldsmith. | (b) Charles Mackay  |
| (c) Janet Rand        | (d) Alfred Tennyson |

#### **B. Answer the following questions not exceeding 30-40 words each :**

1. What is success ?
2. Who is truly free ?

3. What is the greatest hazard in life ?
4. When is a man filled with despair ?
5. How can freedom be enjoyed ?

**C. Anser the following questions not exceeding 60 words each :**

1. Why should we take risk ?
2. What is immediate advantage of avoiding risks ?
3. “Chained by their certitude”. Explain this phrase.
4. Write main theme of the poem.
5. What is the importance of opposite images in the poem ?

**ACTIVITY 2 : REFERENCE TO CONTEXT**

Explain the following lines with reference to context :

1. To live is \_\_\_\_\_ to risk nothing. (L-08-12)
2. The person who \_\_\_\_\_ grow, love, live. (L-13-17)