

Title: Dengue

Author: Syeda Ariyana Hussain (Arisha)

Level: Pre-Intermediate

Genre: Poetry (Insects, Clothing and Dengue Fever)

Adapted and edited with author's permission by Cherie Brown. Photo by Cherie Brown

This is the season of *dengue**,

Do not wear an outfit like *jangue**.

My grandmother is afraid of my father, but not the mosquito,

She sets a mosquito net so that no mosquito bites on her toe.

I hope, she will understand,

She will be so sick that she cannot stand.

Be careful of *dengue* !

Do not wear an outfit like *jangue*.



Learning Activities

Vocabulary

There are six important words from the 2nd 1000 high frequency General Service Word List to learn from this poem, they are...

afraid
net

bites
sick

grandmother
toe

Another useful and common English word to learn is the word '**insect**', though it is not in this poem. Check the meaning of 'mosquito' and 'outfit' in the dictionary. These two words are not so common, so only learn them if you already know all the other words in the poem.
**Dengue* = a disease spread by mosquitoes. *Jangue* = a kind of underwear

Think and discuss...

1. Are you afraid of insects? Which ones? Why/Why not?
2. How do you keep yourself safe from mosquito bites? Do you use chemical methods or natural methods? Which methods are better, do you think? Give a reason for your answer.
3. Did you ever try to catch and keep insects when you were younger? Describe an experience you have had with an insect.

Write

Can you replace the missing words in the first part of this poem with words of your own? Try to make your poem rhyme, in a similar way to the original poem. Try to make your poem funny, if you can.

This is the season of _____,

Do not _____.

My grandmother is afraid of _____, but not _____,

She _____ so that _____.

Add a drawing of your own to your poem and make it into a poster. Share your poem and poster with a partner. Your teacher may like to hang your class's poems and posters on the wall of your classroom.