

## **CLASS 10**

### **ENGLISH LITERATURE**

#### **NINE GOLD MEDALS – DAVID ROTH**

**‘Nine Gold Medals’ is a poem written by the American vocalist, song- writer and author David Roth. It celebrates human values of cooperation, compassion, empathy, fairness and concern. The poem reveals the story of nine differently abled athletes who participated in a special Olympics. Nine special runners had trained themselves for the racing event with the hope of winning the gold medal. However , as the race began, the youngest runner tripped and fell on the ground which made all the other athletes stop to help him without any hesitation. This poem emphasises on the sportsmanship and kindness exhibited by these athletes that made them win a gold medal each for their exemplary behaviour. The poem is written much like a story in a very simple language. The message that the poem gives us , is that the spirit of empathy, consideration and brotherhood surpasses the achievement of merely winning a competition. The gold medals were not awarded for winning a contest in its typical sense. They seem eligible to get gold medals for their golden show of humanity. The poem sends the message that sports is not only about medals but also about learning the values of sharing, competing and complimenting. By awarding gold medals to all contestants, the authorities honoured their display of empathy, helpful nature and human values.**

**Being selfless and helping others can do a lot of good not only to the person who is being helped but also to the person who is helping. What values most in life is the sense of sharing other’s pain and sorrow and trying to cheer up and encourage the weak and the fallen.**

#### **WORKSHEET**

##### **QUESTION 1**

**The athletes had come from so many countries**

**To run for the gold, for the silver and bronze**

**Many weeks and months in training**

**All building up to the games.**

**All round the field spectators were gathered**

**Cheering on all the young women and men**

**Then the final event of the day was approaching**

**The last race about to begin.**

**i) Where did the athletes come from so many countries? Why ?**

**ii) What do the words 'gold', 'silver' and 'bronze' stand for in the extract ? Do you think the contestants were prepared well for the event ? Give a reason for your answer ?**

**iii) Give the meaning of :**

**a) All building up to the games.**

**b) The last race about to begin.**

**iv) Why did the spectators gather around the field ? Who are referred to as "young women and men" ?**

**v) Which final event is referred to in the extract ? How did the event end ? In what way was the ending appropriate ?**