A Nation’s Strength (Poem)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Meanings</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honour</td>
<td>عرط</td>
<td>For the sake of</td>
<td>گستاخار</td>
<td>Stand fast</td>
<td>چت باجا</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suffer long</td>
<td>عرصق کشف رکیش</td>
<td>Pillars</td>
<td>ستوان</td>
<td>Dare</td>
<td>چت کر/جات</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fly</td>
<td>پڑراکرکر</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Stanza 1
Not gold, but only men can make,
A people great and strong.
Men who, for truth and honour’s sake,
Stand fast and suffer long.

Reference:
These lines have been taken from the poem “A Nation’s Strength” composed by R.W. Emerson.

Context:
The poet says that wealth does not make a nation great and strong. The real strength of a nation lies in the men who fight for the cause of their nation.

Paraphrase:
In these lines, the poet says that riches and gold do not make a nation strong. It is the men who make a nation strong. These men fight for the cause of honour and truth. They remain steadfast in their aim and face difficulties for the achievement of their goal.

Stanza No. 2
Brave men who work while others sleep,
Who dare while others fly,
They build a nation's pillars deep,
And lift them to the sky.

Reference:
These lines have been taken from the poem "A Nation’s Strength" composed by R.W. Emerson.

Context:
The poet says that wealth does not make a nation great and strong. The real strength of a nation lies in the men who fight for the cause of their nation.
Paraphrase:
In these lines, the poet describes the qualities of brave men who fight for the cause of their nation. They face the dangers confronting their nation while cowards fly away. These brave persons build the foundation of a nation very deep and lift them to the heights of glory with their untiring efforts.

**EXERCISES**

Answer the following questions.

i. Write in your own words the main idea of the poem.

**Main Idea**
According to the poet, wealth cannot make a nation great and strong. The foundation stone of a nation is its men, who are brave, hardworking, truthful and steadfast. Their noble deeds build the pillars of a nation strong and lift them to the sky.

ii. Write a paragraph on "Character of a Brave Man". Use these adjectives to describe the character: brave, truthful, steadfast, honourable, hardworking, strong, great.

A brave man is the one who has courage to face difficulties without showing any fear. He has moral strength as well. He does not lose heart while facing or suffering pain. He can endure any danger. Brave men are hardworking, honourable, great and truthful. They speak the truth and remain steadfast in all circumstances. Brave men possess strong will-power and are respected by the people.

Write down the rhyming words used in the poem.

**Example:**
make, sake
strong, long
sleep, deep
fly, sky

Add two more rhyming words in each line.

i. gold, Bold, Sold,
ii. stand, Band, Land.
iii. dare, pair, mare.

Write down the nouns and verbs used in the poem.

- **Noun:** Gold, Men, People, Truth, Pillars, Sky.
- **Verb:** Make, Stand, Suffer, Work, Sleep, Dare, Fly, Build, Lift.

Fill in the missing letters.

i. H_nour        ii. Pill_rs        iii. D_ep
iv. Li_t        v. D_re

Match the word similar in meaning in List 'A' with 'B' and write the answer in 'C'.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List 'A'</th>
<th>List 'B'</th>
<th>List 'C'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i) honour</td>
<td>foundation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii) stand fast</td>
<td>self-respect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iii) Fly</td>
<td>show courage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iv) dare</td>
<td>stand firmly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(v) pillars</td>
<td>run in fear</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary**
(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

This simple and inspiring poem seems to be a national anthem for all nations on the surface of earth. Emerson wants to arouse the passion of patriotism among the young generation. He reveals to us a great secret behind the greatness of a nation.
The poet makes us realize that accumulation ($\text{积累}$) of wealth and piles ($\text{堆}$) of gold and silver do not make a nation great. The greatness of a nation lies in its men. These men uphold the cause of truth and honour. These men sacrifice their ($\text{牺牲}$) personal interests for larger national interests ($\text{国家利益}$). They fight bravely and face hardships ($\text{困难}$) steadfastly ($\text{坚定}$) while others try to retreat ($\text{逃避}$) and flee ($\text{逃离}$). They work hard while others are lost in deep slumber ($\text{沉睡}$). Such men, being very honest, brave, courageous ($\text{勇敢}$), and steadfast ($\text{坚定}$) lay firm foundations of a nation and then take the nation to the heights of glory and grandeur ($\text{荣耀}$). Such men are very rare ($\text{稀少}$) in this materialistic ($\text{物质主义}$) age. They should be honoured, respected, adorned ($\text{装饰}$) and encouraged.

**Use the following words in your own sentences.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words</th>
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<th>Sentences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honour</td>
<td>مرتاد</td>
<td>We should work hard in a true spirit for the honour of our country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stand fast</td>
<td>طبیعتی</td>
<td>They stood fast with their point of view.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pillars</td>
<td>ستون</td>
<td>There are five pillars of Islam. Tauheed is one of the pillars of Islam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fly</td>
<td>پیاده رفتن</td>
<td>The birds were flying in the sky even in the windy atmosphere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sake</td>
<td>لطف</td>
<td>For God’s sake, do not waste your precious time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suffer long</td>
<td>گرفتن</td>
<td>He suffered long during his struggle for freedom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dare</td>
<td>بے کرنا</td>
<td>The students do not dare to go to the Principal for their complaints.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Answers**

**Missing Letters.**

i. o ii. a iii. e iv. f v. a

**Match List 'C'.**

i. self-respect ii. stand firmly iii. run in fear iv. show courage
v. foundation