

**home-keeping hearts:** any living thing that loves its home and likes to remain there

**wander:** to go from place to place without having a final place to get to

**care:** worry

**weary:** very tired

**homesick:** unhappy because of being away from home for a long time

**distressed:** worried or upset

**baffled:** caused someone to be completely unable to understand or explain something

**the wilderness of doubt:** feeling of loneliness and sorrow caused by not being sure about something

**o'er:** old fashioned word for old

**hovering:** staying in one place in the air, usually by flapping the wings very fast

# Home

Stay, stay at home, my heart, and rest;  
Home-keeping hearts are happiest,  
 For those that wander they know not where  
 Are full of trouble and full of care;  
 To stay at home is best.

Weary and homesick and distressed,  
 They wander east, they wander west,  
 And are baffled and beaten and blown about  
 By the winds of the wilderness of doubt;  
 To stay at home is best.

Then stay at home, my heart, and rest;  
 The bird is safest in its nest;  
O'er all that flutter their wings and fly  
 A hawk is hovering in the sky;  
 To stay at home is best.

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*



## Let's Understand

Answer these questions.

1. Who, according to the speaker, are the happiest?
2. What happens to those who wander?
3. Are people who stay at home confused and tired as well?
4. What does the speaker want the people at home to do?
5. What is the danger that threatens the bird?

## Let's Think

Do you think that the hawk is a danger only to birds that have left their nests? Does the speaker also mean that the hawk is like the dangerous things that can happen to people who wander too far from home?

## Let's Use Words

1. Finds two words in the poem that talk about how birds fly.
2. Work in pairs. Tell each other about a time when you felt two of these emotions—
  - a. happy
  - b. lonely
  - c. worried



## Let's Write

Have you ever been away from home for a while? Write a short paragraph explaining how you felt.

## Let's Have Fun

Look at these words. Don't read the words aloud but say what colour the words are.

**YELLOW**

**BLUE**

**RED**

**ORANGE**

**BLACK**

**GREEN**