**1. ONCE UPON A TIME**

**--Gabriel Okara**

**Q. How can a person laugh with his heart and eyes according to Okara in his poem**

**“Once upon a Time”?**

             Gabriel Okara is a great poet of Nigeria. His poem” Once upon a Time” is an emotional poem. It is about the story of a grown up man. He wishes that he could once again be as innocent as when he was a child.

             The poet tells his son about the behavior of people in the olden days and in the modern world. He remembers a time when people had true feelings for one another. They would laugh with their hearts but today they laugh with their teeth. They greet each other with a smile that does not reach their hearts. When they say ‘come again’ to a guest they don’t really mean it. They only say it to be polite. According to the poet, people now- a- days are often interested in meeting people only if they are rich and famous. They do not respect people those who have no wealth or position.

              The poet says that we behave very differently in the office, compared to the way we behave at a party. Once someone enters the adult world, he will change and then change others. Then the young adults will gradually forget how to laugh with their hearts.  The poet has a deep desire to go back to the innocence of childhood. He thinks that his son’s innocent smile could teach him how to express his feelings honestly. He wants to re-learn how to behave in a natural way. Thus the poet wants to be child again to laugh with his heart.