**INTRODUCTION AND MOTIVATION:**



[**Resource 1**](https://sl.wikipedia.org/wiki/France_Pre%C5%A1eren)

Here is a picture of a very important Slovenian man. Who do you think he was? Can you guess?

If they don't respond, you can challenge them, e.g.: OK, he wasn't a teacher or a politician. So, any ideas?

They have to say: **a poet**. If not, you tell them the answer.

**ACQUISITION OF KNOWLEDGE:**

This is dr. France Prešeren and he was the greatest Slovenian poet. His poem “A Toast” (“Zdravljica”) is our national anthem. It expresses Prešeren's belief that the main aim of each nation is to achieve freedom, independence and equality. There should not be wars between the nations, but friendship and connection.

He lived in the 19th century. He wrote many poems, sonnets, ballads and romances, gazelles,… He wrote in Slovene and in German language. His poems have been translated into many European languages.We are going to hear / read one of his poems which talks about a mother who is not married.

Play an MP3 recording, or read the poem. Let the others listen.

**The Unmarried Mother**

What was the need of you, little one,
My baby dear, my darling son,
To me - a girl, a **foolish** young thing,
A mother without a wedding ring?

My father **cursed** and beat me,
My mother in tears would **entreat** me;
My friends would **blush** and pass me by,
Strangers pointed at me **on the sly**.

And he who was my own true love -
Your father by the will above -
He **wanders** God knows how far from here.
**Shamed** because of us, poor dear.

What was the need of you, little one,
My baby dear, my darling son?
But whether there was need or no,
With all my heart I love you so.

There seem to open azure skies
Whene'er I look into your eyes;
And when on me you sweetly smile,
All I've **suffered** is gone for a while.

May He, by whom the birds are fed,
**Joy** and blessings on you **shed**!
Whether there was need or no,
With all my heart I love you so.

[Resource 2](http://www.preseren.net/ang/3_poezije/18_nezkonska.asp?recit=1)

[Resource 3](http://www.preseren.net/ang/3_poezije/18_nezkonska.mp3)

Ask them what they have understood – what the poem is about. How does the mother feel?

Give the students the poem and they should read it again by themselves. Tell them that there are some words in bold that they have to find the meanings of. Form groups of five and give them the definitions of the words. They need to connect the words with the correct definitions.

DEFINITIONS:

[*unwise*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/unwise)*,* [*stupid*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/stupid)*, or not* [*showing*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/showing) *good* [*judgment*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/judgment)

*to use a word or an* [*expression*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/expression) *that is not* [*polite*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/polite) *and* [*shows*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/show) *that you are very* [*angry*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/angry)

*to* [*try*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/try) *very hard to* [*persuade*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/persuade) *someone to do something*

*to* [*become*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/become) *red in the* [*face*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/face)*, usually from* [*embarrassment*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/embarrassment)

*to do it* [*secretly*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/secret) *because you should not be doing it*

*to* [*walk*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/walk) *around* [*slowly*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/slow) *in a* [*relaxed*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/relaxed) *way or without any* [*clear*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/clear)[*purpose*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/purpose) *or* [*direction*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/direction)

*embarrassed*

*to* [*experience*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/experience)[*physical*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/physical) *or* [*mental*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/mental)[*pain*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/pain)

*happiness*

*to* [*drop*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/drop) *something in a* [*natural*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/natural) *way or by* [*accident*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/accident)

[Resource 4](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/)

When they are done, they read the words and the definitions to the others. They change turns. Each time ask the other groups if they agree with the group which is reporting. You give your feedback (right / wrong connection).

Give the groups the questions about the poem on a piece of paper. Each group gets the same questions. They write the answers on the papers.

QUESTIONS:

Who is the mother talking to?

What is her problem?

How does she feel about her situation?

How did the people react to her situation?

Where is the father of the child?

How does the father feel about his child?

How does the mother feel about her child?

What is a reward for her suffering?

How do you feel about the poem?

The groups read the questions and the answers. They change turns. Each time ask other groups if they want to add something and if they agree.