

Title: Tensions and Expectations  
Author: Syeda Ariyana Hussain (Arisha)  
Genre: poetry (expectations, life goals)  
Level: Upper Intermediate to Advanced



### **Tensions and Expectations**

What is 'expectation'?

Does it have any **connection** with **satisfaction**?

Is it something which is a part of **pride**?

For example, "My son will get a **perfect** bride!"

Does satisfaction mean the simplest pleasure?

Or relishing time in the sauna, with cash and **lots** of **treasure**?

Why do we 'expect'?

For the **sake** of love and care?

Does it incite us to **dare**,

To **achieve** things **unique** and **rare**?

Does, in the long run, this care turn into **greed** or fear?

---

### **Learning Activities**

#### **Vocabulary**

### 1. Words from the second 1000 General Service List

connection dare greed lots perfect pride rare sake satisfaction treasure

### 2. Academic Word List words

achieve, unique

You should learn the words in #1 and #2 above, as these are high frequency words in English.

### 3. Off List words

bride, cash, incite, relishing, sauna

Check the meaning of these in your dictionary, but do not learn them unless you already know all the words in #1 and 2 above, as they are not so common.

## Comprehension Questions

1. **Inferring:** Why does the title include the word ‘tensions’? How does this word relate to one’s expectations?
2. **Remembering:** Without looking back at the poem, can you remember which words rhyme with the following words a) bride \_\_\_\_\_ b) care \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ c) treasure \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Understanding:** Explain the meaning of “in the long run”.
4. **Understanding:** Explain the meaning of “for the sake of” something.
5. **Understanding:** Give some examples of things that are ‘unique’ and/or ‘rare’.

## Critical Thinking Questions

1. **Analysing:** What does the word ‘relishing’ mean? Find some examples of sentences that use this word in the dictionary. What do those example sentences show you about the kinds of things that people often relish?
2. **Applying:** What are your expectations for the future? Do you think your expectations are realistic or just fantasies? Describe some things that you ‘relish’.
3. **Evaluating:** The poet indicates that our expectations might make us become greedy. Do you think it is a good thing to have high expectations in life or not? Give some reasons for your answer.
4. **Creating:** Make some notes as instructed below...
  - a) List three common expectations that people have in life.
  - b) Now list three unusual expectations that people may have.
  - c) For each expectation, write two or three practical steps that people can take to achieve these expectations.
  - d) Beside each expectation, also write some things that might get in the way of achieving it.
  - e) Finally, explain how these obstacles might be overcome.

- f) In your opinion, what is 'life satisfaction?' Write down some examples to support your ideas, and in one or two sentences, explain how life satisfaction can be achieved.

Now use your notes to create a short motivational speech called "How to reach your goals in life". Deliver your motivational speech to a partner, or a small group. (Or you could record your speech as a short video.) However you decide to deliver your speech, give your listeners some time to think of some questions, then be prepared to answer these.