



## Unit -2

### The Grumble Family

- Lucy Maud Montgomery



#### About the author:

L. M. Montgomery, (1874-1942) was a Canadian author best known for a series of novels beginning in 1908 with *Anne of Green Gables*. Montgomery went on to publish 20 novels as well as 530 short stories, 500 poems and 30 essays. A prolific writer, Montgomery published over 100 stories between 1897 and 1907. Montgomery's work, diaries and letters have been read and studied by scholars and readers worldwide.



# 2

## The Grumble Family

*Lucy Maud Montgomery*

Poem

The poet gives a vivid picture of neighbourhood scenes .Read to know how we should mend our ways.

There's a family nobody likes to meet;  
They live, it is said, on Complaining Street  
In the city of Never-Are-Satisfied,  
The River of Discontent beside.

They growl at that and they growl at this;  
Whatever comes, there is something amiss;  
And whether their station be high or humble,  
They are all known by the name of Grumble.

The weather is always too hot or cold;  
Summer and winter alike they scold.

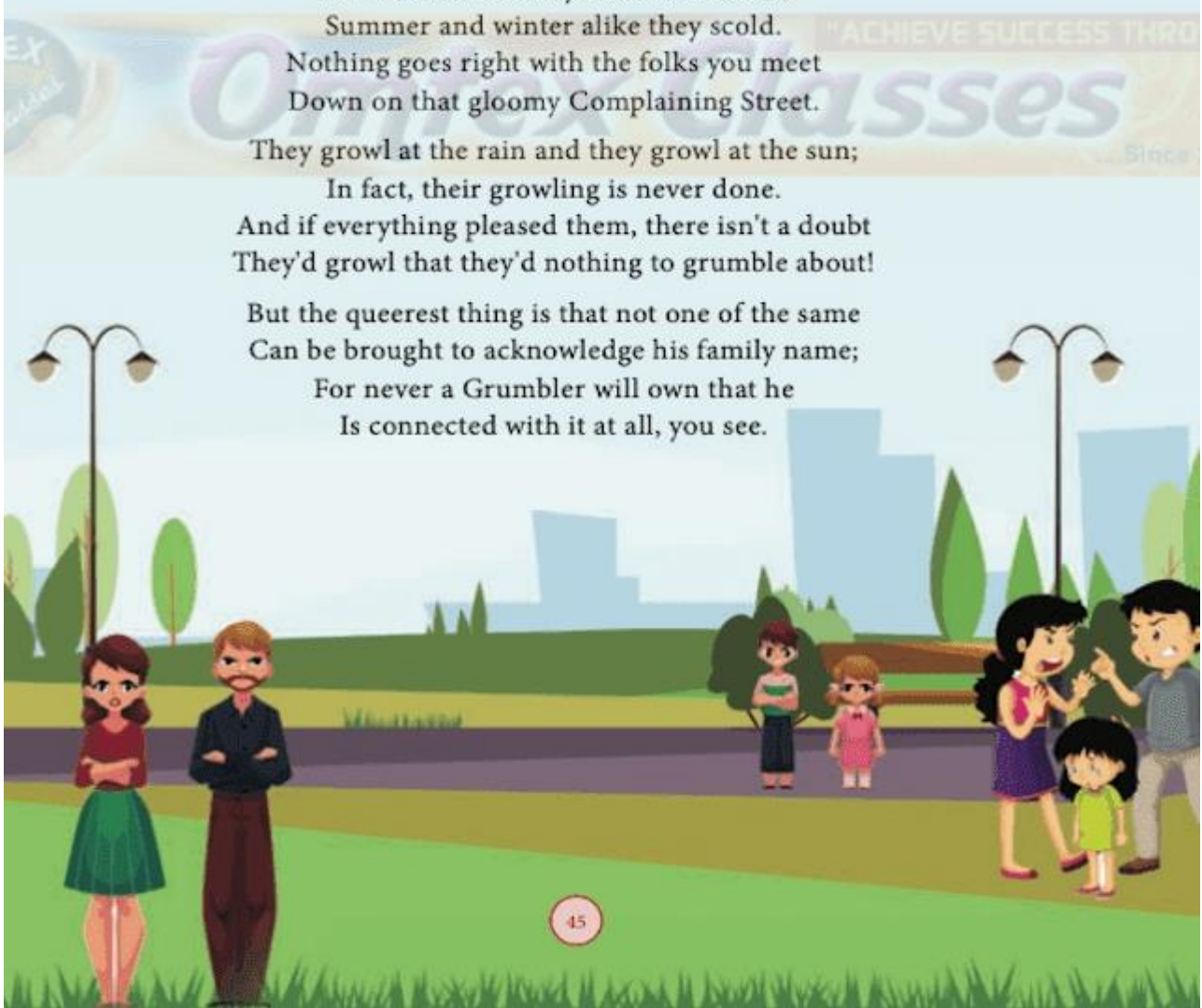
Nothing goes right with the folks you meet  
Down on that gloomy Complaining Street.

They growl at the rain and they growl at the sun;  
In fact, their growling is never done.  
And if everything pleased them, there isn't a doubt  
They'd growl that they'd nothing to grumble about!

But the queerest thing is that not one of the same  
Can be brought to acknowledge his family name;  
For never a Grumbler will own that he  
Is connected with it at all, you see.



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## Glossary:

Amiss : not quite right.

Growl : make a low guttural sound in the throat.

Grumble : a complaint about something in a bad-tempered way.

Gloomy : to appear depressing or frightening.

Queerest : the strangest or the most unusual.

Acknowledge : accept or admit the existence or truth of.

Terrible : extremely bad or serious.

## Summary:

There is a family that no one ever wants to meet on Complaining Street in 'Never-are-Satisfied' city where River Discontent also runs. They growl at everything and hence – something goes wrong. Even if their station is high or humble, they will not fail to Grumble. The weather is always at extreme conditions and they scold at each other at both seasons. Even when they are satisfied with everything, there isn't a doubt! that they would growl about not having anything to grumble about. The strangest thing is not a single person in the Grumble family can accept the family name because no – Grumbler will accept that he is a grumbler nor associated with such qualities. They are so contagious that anyone who says with them for a bit too long become a grumbler himself. Hence, it is wise to keep our feet away from Complaining Street. Therefore, let us learn to walk with a smile on our lips and a song in our mouth even when things go against our desires. One should never belong to the family of Grumble, even if the status changes drastically.

**“Be grateful and you won't grumble. Grumble and you won't be grateful.”**