



## Your English No. 45 – Poem: A Reason For Living

Hi. I'm Marianne Raynaud. My goal is to help my listeners feel more comfortable when speaking English. In my teaching I have often asked students to learn a poem of their choice with rhymes and recite it either to a partner or to their teacher in a private session. They have found poems on the Internet or in books. Others have chosen to recite one of the poems I have written and published in student workbooks.

Here is one that will tell you a little about my philosophy in life. I hope you enjoy it. There is a continuous reading followed by a listen a repeat section. The script of the poem can be downloaded from my website [www.qualitytime-esl.com](http://www.qualitytime-esl.com).

This poem will help you with rhythm, stress and rhymes. As you know probably English is a "stressed language". In the printed version you will notice that the syllables or words to be stressed in this poem are in bold letters. In my book "QualityTime-ESL: The Digital Resource Book" there are many, many poems, not only by yours truly but also by several different authors, that will help learners perfect their English. These poems come with recordings worksheets and keys. Now onto today's verse.

### A Reason for Living

By Marianne Raynaud

We **do** our jobs, we **make** a living  
Some **simply** do their **tasks**, some **feel** they are **giving**  
A **sense** to their **lives** and even **help** to **others**  
Since we **live** in a **world** where we **all** should be **brothers**

But there's **so** much **fighting**, war and **discontent**  
**When** will this **turmoil** ever **relent**?  
When will **people** make **peace** and **stop** all this **hate**?  
And **neighbors** **accept** one another's **fate**?

Your English No. 45 – Poem: A Reason For Living (Cont.)

Or **will** they forever continue to **say**  
 Their **own** belief is the **only way**?  
 That **their** God has **shown** us the **primary law**  
 That **must** be respected whatever the **flaw**?

Will **business** rule **mankind** in the **years to come**?  
 Then **to** the God of **profits** we **all** shall succumb  
**Some** will be **richer**, have computers and **such**  
**Others** will **dream**, steal, never **get** very **much**

So **couldn't** we **all** decide that we **share**  
 Material **things**, but **also** love and **care**?  
 Just **start** with a **smile**; reach **out** to those in **need**  
 Make **fun** of the **people** who show **anger** and **greed**

We're **all** very **different** in shape, **color**, and **taste**  
 Our **culture** depends on the **place** where we're **raised**  
 But we **all** have a **mind** and our **blood** is pure **red**  
 So **let** us **make** a **life** that's worth **living** instead!

*Now listen and repeat.*

*That's the end of this episode. On our website you will find packs with transcripts of our podcasts often with both written and oral exercises. For more information go to our website [www.qualitytime-esl.com](http://www.qualitytime-esl.com). And do check out our other series "QualityTime-ESL Podcasts" for grammar practice and "5-Minute TOPs" to play with song lyrics, Thank you all for listening. Bye for now.*