

## **Under The Greenwood Tree - A Song From "As You Like It" by William Shakespeare**

### **A song from 'As You Like It' By William Shakespeare**

**William Shakespeare:** William Shakespeare is the greatest playwright of England. Many would say that he was the greatest dramatist in world literature. He wrote many kinds of drama – history, romance, comedy and tragedy. His plays are famous all over the world. He was a great poet, too. He wrote many songs and sonnets. He was a wonderful poetic craftsman indeed. No writer has peopled his works with such a wide range of characters or touches so many aspects of human behaviors. No poetry can excel his in power and beauty. His genius has hardly any parallel in drama or poetry. To know English and not to read Shakespeare is a misfortune of the worst kind.

**As You Like It: 'As You Like It' is one of the most popular comedies of William Shakespeare.**

**The Song:** The song is from the play, "As You Like It", a very popular comedy written by William Shakespeare. It is sung by Amiens, a character in the play. Amiens is a nobleman. He lives the life of an exile with a Duke and his followers in the Forest of Arden. The wicked brother of the Duke has robbed him of his estate and driven him into exile. Like all the songs of Shakespeare, this one too is completely relevant to the situation.

**Context:** These lines are from a song in the play, "As You Like It", a very popular comedy written by William Shakespeare. The song is sung by Amiens, a character in the play. Amiens is a nobleman. He lives the life of an exile with a Duke and his followers in the Forest of Arden. The wicked brother of the Duke has robbed him of his estate and driven him into exile. Amiens sings that life in the forest is simple and happy. One has to face winter and rough weather, no doubt, but is free from the tortures of human enemies.

### **Explanation:**

(1) Amiens invites his listeners to the pleasant life of the forest. The trees are green in spring and summer. The birds sing sweet songs. Those, who are fond of this kind of life and love to sing with the birds, may come and live in the forest. Of course, they will have to face some hardship when the cold weather sets in a stormy winds blow but there will be no human enemies to torture them.

(2) Amiens invites his listeners to the pleasant life of the forest, whoever keep himself away from worldly ambitions and loves free life in the open air, will find happiness in the woods. Of course, he will have to hunt his own food and be satisfied with what he gets. He will also have to face some hardships when cold weather sets in a stormy winds blow. But there will, certainly, be no human enemies to torture them.