**Unit 1: Human Bonds**

**Section 3: Mending Wall**

**Poem appreciation**

**1. Does the wall between the neighbor’s farms serve a practical purpose? Support your view with evidence from the poem.**

No, because

a. there is nothing to wall in or out,

b. there are no cows,

c. the narrator’s apple trees will never walk across to eat the cones under his neighbor’s pines.

**2. How do the hunters damage the wall?**

Hunters damage the wall while they are chasing the rabbits; accompanied by hunting dogs, they break it.

**3. How would you describe the poet and his tone?**

On the surface the poet does not want the wall between him and his neighbor. His tone suggests he is a little pensive, wistful, at times annoyed, sarcastic, angry and then resigned.

**4. What does the wall represent for each neighbor?**

To the speaker it is just ‘an outdoor game’, an unnecessary barrier between him and his neighbour. To the neighbor it is an essential barrier because it protects his need for privacy and marks his territory—‘good fences make good neighbors’.

**5. What does the neighbor mean by good fences makes good neighbor’s?**

The neighbor means that the best neighbors keep to themselves and do not interfere in their neighbors business. By maintaining the division between the properties, the narrator and his neighbour are able to maintain their individuality and personal identity. The annual act of mending the wall also provides an opportunity for the two men to interact and communicate with each other. A wall in a relationship could refer to a barrier that prevents two people from being open with each other.