

EXERCISE 1

Write the rhyming words for each stanza.

Stanza	Rhyming Words	
1	nearby	try
	dear	near
2	meet	street
	school	fool
3	despair	share
	joy	boy
4	high	by
	street	feet
5	tent	rent
	many	penny
6	so	grow
	dear	fear
7	tried	cried
	strong	long

EXERCISE 2

The "Susso" is an Australian slang term which means welfare or financial aid from the government. Susso comes from the word 'sustenance payment'.

1. What is the main theme of this article?
  - a. You can be rich if you work hard.
  - b. Many people were sad because they were born poor.
  - c.** The Great Depression made many jobless people depend on the susso to survive.

Learning Activities

1. Do research on the susso. Discuss in a group what life was like then.
  - Can refer back to issue 3.6 *Pocket Money* and read the story *Successes and Struggles – One Family's Story* about life during the Great Depression and how one family had overcome it.

- The Great Depression began in the US and its effects were felt throughout the world. It happened in 1929-1932.
- This was a time when more than 32% of Australians were unemployed. More than 60,000 people depended on sustenance payments or the susso to survive.
- The susso was only for the destitute, who had been unemployed for a long period of time, and had no assets or savings.
- The susso was given not in the form of money, but dole tickets or coupons to claim basic food instead, such as bread and potatoes. The unemployed men had to report to a police station every week, where they could get coupons to claim very minimal rations of food – one meal a day.
- 'Soup kitchens' (places where people with no money and no homes can get free food) sprang up throughout Australia.



- Living conditions - Many people were homeless and made temporary shelters in public parks and fields. Many shanty towns sprung up for the homeless. One such was Happy Valley. All of the houses here were merely shacks made of tin and any bits of wood and material people can get their hands on. It was not a very "happy" place like its name but more of a place where the unemployed people could get moral support from each other and to escape public humiliation.



2. Discuss **retrenchment** or cutting back of jobs in the economy today. What impact does this have on the family?
- **Retrenchment** involves cutting down on the size of a company and as such, it needs to cut down on the number of workers. Because the world economy at large is not doing very well, many companies have to downsize and reduce spending. In doing so, they are sustaining themselves in the market and making their companies more manageable.
  - Besides reducing the number of employees, other ways companies try to cut spending are to close offices or branches that are not doing so well, reduce benefits such as medical coverage or retirement plans, freeze hiring or salaries, or even cut down on salaries.
  - When a family member is being retrenched, it means one less income is coming in for the family. This would mean less spending power and savings for the family. Thus, the family would have to be more careful in their spending and cut back on unnecessary expenditures.
  - To get a better idea of what the Malaysian economy is like today, here is a list of some companies that have retrenched their staff in 2009:
    1. Dell, Penang and Cyberjaya – 5,000 workers (World News Network)
    2. Western Digital, Kuching – 1,500 workers (ZD Net Asia)
    3. Nikko, Penang – 950 workers (SKORCAREER)
    4. Panasonic, Malacca – 500 workers (Gadgetell)