

Washing

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about,
When he might have won if he'd stuck it out.
Don't give up, though the pace seems slow -
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than
It seems to a faint and faltering man;
Often the struggler has given up
When he might have captured the victor's cup,
And he learned too late, when the night slipped down,
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out -
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are -
It may be near when it seems afar;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit -
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.

--John Greenleaf W

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Questions:

Research and Discussion Questions

Why do we need water?

Why is it important to wash and keep clean?

QUESTIONS

1. How often does one have to wash according to the poem?

2. What is the writer tired of hearing

3. What does it mean when the poet says: "I seem to live in the washing place"?"

4. When does the writer have to wash?

5. What is demanded of the writer as soon as he gets home?

6. What does it mean by “...it's time to turn on the waterspout”?

7. Why does the writer ask "What is all this washing about"?
