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.

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?
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. 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.