A Reason for Living
By Marianne Raynaud

As you know English, is a "stressed” language. The stressed words or syllables in this poem are in bold. Guess the last word in each line—a stressed word. Half of the missing words are on the next page. Consult a rhyming dictionary, if you cannot find the other missing words.

We **do** our jobs, we **make** a l ____________
Some **simply** do their **tasks**, some **feel** they are g ____________
A **sense** to their **lives** and even **help** to o ____________
Since we **live** in a **world** where we all should be b ____________

But there's so much **fighting**, war and d ____________
When will this **turmoil** ever r ____________?
When will **people** make **peace** and stop all this h ____________
And **neighbors** accept one another's f ____________?

Or **will** they forever **continue** to s ____________
Their **own** belief is the **only** w ____________?
That their God has **shown** us the **primary** l ____________
That **must** be respected whatever the f ____________?

Will **business** rule **mankind** in the **years** to c ____________?
Then **to** the God of **profits** we all shall s ____________
Some will be **richer**, have **computers** and s ____________
Others will **dream**, steal, never get very m ____________

So **couldn't** we all **decide** that we s ____________
Material **things**, but also love and c ____________?
Just **start** with a **smile**, reach **out** to those in n ____________
Make **fun** of the **people** who show **anger** and g ____________

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We're all very different in shape, color, and taste.
Our culture depends on the place where we're living.
But we all have a mind and our blood is pure red.
So let us make a life that's worth living! 

Below are half of the missing words. When the words have more than one syllable, the stressed syllable is in bold. Mark it when you place the words in the poem above.

discontent  living  share
flaw  others  succumb
greed  red  such
hate  say  taste

Finally, check your work against the key and then learn the poem by heart. You will be reciting it to a partner during the next class.