

Unit

1

Poem

The Castle

Edwin Muir



Warm Up

a) What thoughts come to your mind when you think about a castle? Add your ideas to the list.

moat, huge buildings, soldiers, weapons

b) Have you ever visited a fort or a castle?

c) Fill in the following empty boxes.

Name	Location
Fort St. George	Chennai
Gingee Fort	
Golconda Fort	
Red Fort	

All through that summer at ease we lay,
And daily from the **turret** wall
We watched the **mowers** in the hay
And the enemy half a mile away
They seemed no threat to us at all.

For what, we thought, had we to fear
With our arms and **provender**, load on load,
Our **towering battlements**, **tier** on tier,
And **friendly allies** drawing near
On every leafy summer road.

Our gates were strong, our walls were thick,
So smooth and high, no man could win
A **foothold** there, no clever trick
Could take us dead or **quick**,
Only a bird could have got in.

What could they offer us for **bait**?
Our captain was brave and we were true...
There was a little private gate,
A little **wicked wicket gate**.
The **wizened warder** let them through.

Oh then our **maze** of tunneled stone
Grew thin and **treacherous** as air.
The cause was lost without a **groan**,
The famous **citadel overthrown**,
And all its secret galleries bare.

How can this shameful tale be told?
I will **maintain** until my death
We could do nothing, being sold:
Our only enemy was gold,
And we had no arms to fight it with.

