

English Language resources: Homework activities - Ruth 1

Questions on Biblical texts: Ruth 1:6-18

The following text is from chapter 1 of the book of Ruth, in the Old Testament of the *King James Bible*. The *King James Bible (KJB)* was first translated in 1611 and was revised in 1769. This is the version in general use today.

This is the story of Naomi (who was originally from Judah, but who had lived many years in Moab) and her two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, after Naomi was widowed and both her sons died.

- a. Rewrite verses 11-18 in modern English. Write a brief commentary on the changes you have made and the reasons for these changes.
- b. Using the methods for analysis:
 1. Consider the text in detail
 2. Explore the ways it shows that language has changed over time
 3. Refer to relevant ideas from your language study.

Ruth 1:6-18

⁶ Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread.

⁷ Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.

⁸ And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.

⁹ The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept.

¹⁰ And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.

¹¹ And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?

¹² Turn again, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have an husband. If I should say, I have hope, if I should have an husband also to night, and should also bear sons;

¹³ Would ye tarry for them till they were grown? would ye stay for them from having husbands? nay, my daughters; for it grieveth me much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD is gone out against me.

¹⁴ And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law; but Ruth clave unto her.

¹⁵ And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister in law.

¹⁶ And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

¹⁷ Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me.

¹⁸ When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.