

## ‘Brew it fair’ Tea Reflection

This reflection was inspired by some lines in the Fairtrade Foundation’s ‘Brew It Fair: The People behind the Tea’:

*With 19 years of experience as a Tea Leaf Plucker, Ms Vijaya Kumari has experienced the difference Fairtrade makes on her estate. This includes achieving one of her most important aims: providing a better education for her daughter than the one she received.*

*‘My parents couldn’t afford to let me study beyond [14 years old]... Nowadays, girls should study. ... We want them to take their life in their own hands and take care of their future.’*

*Vijaya has been able to educate her two daughters using the Fairtrade Premium. Each child received funding for their education from the age of six, an amount that increased all the way up to college. Vijaya has been happy to see one daughter become an engineer, and the other a nurse.*

You switch on the kettle,  
Open the cupboard,  
Reach for the box  
Where the tea lives  
And pick out a tea bag  
To toss into a mug.

A simple gesture ...  
That mirrors a worker’s  
As she plucked tea leaves  
In South India’s hills  
And tossed them deftly  
Into her basket

Looking forward to evening  
When she would return home  
And her daughters would tell her  
About their school day:  
The lessons they’d learned  
Their ambitions, their plans

Which you helped them realise  
When you chose Fairtrade -  
A simple choice  
That linked you,  
Though you would never see them,  
To millions of children’s dreams.