



Subject: English

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Topic – P8 : ON THE GRASSHOPPER AND CRICKET

Pre Activity : Pick any two lines from the poem that you liked the most and explain these lines in your own words.

Summary

The poem “On the Grasshopper and Cricket” suggests that the poetry of the earth is never-ending. It is continued by one or the other creatures. For instance, in the summer season when the birds lose their energy due to the hot sun and take shelter in the cooling trees, the grasshopper takes over. He can be heard singing in the summer luxury as he moves along the boundaries of the park with freshly trimmed grasses. On getting tired, he rests beneath the weeds.

The poetry of the earth is continued in the winter season by crickets. When frost covers everything and renders silence all around, one can hear the song of the cricket. As he continues singing, the warmth keeps on increasing. To someone who is half-asleep, it might sound that they are listening to a grasshopper in the grassy hills.

Working with the Poem

1. ‘The poetry of earth’ is not made of words. What is it made of, as suggested in the poem?

A. According to the poem, ‘the poetry of the earth’ is never-ending and is not made of words. It can be heard in every season. For instance, during summer season, one can hear the voice of birds and grasshoppers. As the winter arrives and everyone is inside their homes, one can hear the song of the cricket.

2. Find in the poem lines that match the following.

(i) The grasshopper’s happiness never comes to an end.

(ii) The cricket’s song has a warmth that never decreases.

A. (i) The line in the poem that matches the above line is “he has never done with his delights”.

(ii) The line in the poem that matches the above line is “The cricket’s song, in warmth increasing ever”.

3. Which word in stanza 2 is opposite in meaning to ‘the frost’?

A. The word in stanza 2 that is opposite in meaning to ‘the frost’ is “warmth”.

4. The poetry of earth continues round the year through a cycle of two seasons. Mention each with its representative voice.

A. The poetry of the earth is never-ending and it continues round the year through a cycle of two seasons, broadly, the summer and the winter. During the summer season, one can hear the song of birds and grasshoppers whereas in the winter season, one can hear the crickets singing. Thus, all of them keep the poetry of the earth alive.

Post Activity : What are their strengths and weaknesses of the creatures mentioned in the poem?