



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VII	Department: ENGLISH	Date of Submission: APRIL, 2022
STUDY NOTES	Topic: THE FOG	Note: FOR REFERENCE

SETTING OF THE POEM

The poem takes place in a foggy street in London.
The poet explains a trip on this particular street when it was very foggy.

THEME

The poem is about how the people trust only what they literally see and lack awareness of love, faith, belief, religion, conditions etc.

SUMMARY

The poet finds himself in a fog so thick that he is disoriented and cannot find his way home. He is then helped by a man who promised to take him home. Once the poet got home, he realized that the man who had led him home was blind.

Stanza 1

The poet talks about how the fog grew thicker by the minute and soon it became impossible for him to see or understand anything. It completely blinded his senses and made him disoriented. As he looked around through the fog, he found that young boys appeared much taller, almost like men and the tall men appeared huge like giants.

Stanza 2

The fog slowly started having an effect on him. He felt as if the fog was clutching onto his throat and choking him. He started coughing. His mind became empty and his eyes felt hot and heavy. He could clearly feel the heat in his eyes.

Stanza 3

As the fog grew thicker, it became darker around the poet. The poet, at that point in time, lost all his power of judgment of space and distance. He was not able to decide whether he had to move or stand still. He also could not determine how far he had walked or how much more he had to walk.

Stanza 4

The street lamps and the lights of the cars around him started looking like heavenly light. He could not make out whether they were on the earth or starred in the sky.

Stanza 5

A man passing by offered to help the poet reach home when the poet asks the way. Holding the man by his arm, the poet followed him blindly.

Stanza 6

Upon reaching a house, the man rapped on its stone walls and asked the poet to follow him inside. The poet did what he was told. Once inside, he discovered that the man who had guided him to safety was blind himself.

This poem talks about an incident where the poet gets disoriented in a thick fog and cannot find his way home. A person whom he meets on the road offers to help him. Once the poet reaches home, he realizes that the person who had helped him was blind. This discovery makes him realize that we as human beings trust only those things that we can see and question unseen things like love, faith, belief, etc. From this poem, we learn that we should not judge a book by its cover.

KNOW THE AUTHOR

William Henry Davies was born in Wales in the 19th century. Davies received an honorary doctorate from the University of Wales. A selection of his papers and manuscripts is held at the National Library of Wales. His most famous poem *Leisure* was published in 1911 in the collection *Songs of Joy and Others*.

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

POETIC DEVICES

Metaphor – A metaphor is said to be used when the poet compares one thing with another in the course of his verse. Davies also repeatedly draws comparison between the following:

1. ‘It made tall men of boys

And giants of tall men.’

2. The street lamps and the lights

Upon the halted cars,

be the heavenly stars.

Simile: A simile is a figure of speech that directly compares two things. Similes differ from metaphors by highlighting the similarities between two things using words such as "like" or "as", while metaphors create an implicit comparison.

Except two heavy eyes

Like balls of burning lead.

Personification - Personification is used in the statement, 'it clutched my throat'.

The poet uses personification, giving attributes of a man to the fog, to intensify the effect of the fog on him.

Rhyme - A rhyme is a repetition of similar-sounding words, occurring at the end of lines in poems or songs. Some pairs of rhyming words from the poem are-

ken – men
head – lead
place – space
cars – stars
said – led

Rhyme Scheme: abcb dece fcbc

Some ‘fog’ words and phrases: fog of war, in a fog, fog up, foggiest idea, fogbank

Synonyms of fog: Murk, mist, smog, haze, clag
