



## INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

**Class: IX**

**QUESTION BANK (2024-2025)**  
**TOPIC: THE BROOK**

**SUBJECT: ENGLISH**

### SUMMARY OF THE POEM

The Brook' is one of the best poems of Lord Tennyson. It is an autobiography of a brook. The poem describes the origin of the brook, its passage, the sounds made by it and the different movements that it undergoes.

The brook is personified in this poem. It narrates its own story and describes its journey of life. It says that it emerges from the places which are frequently visited by water birds like 'coots and herns.' It emerges suddenly to flow down a valley with a lot of noise.

During its journey it passes many hills, ridges, towns, villages and bridges. Its mood is revealed by the noise or sound that it makes when it moves on the pebbles, it makes a joyous noise, whereas it shows its anger when it makes many curves on the bank and follows a zig-zag passage. The brook also passes many a 'fairy foreland' which are covered with willow-weed and mallow (a plant). Then it joins the brimming river.

On its way, the brook finds many lusty trout and graylings (names of fish). Many flowers blossom on its surface. The transparent water makes its bottom look clear.

It passes silently by lawns, grassy plots and small hazel trees. Swallows touch the water as they fly overhead. The sunbeams dance happily on its shining water. The brook slips, slides, gloms and glances merrily as it flows endlessly.

It murmurs when it passes through the thorny wilderness at night under the dim-light of the moon and the stars. It flows very slowly when it passes the strange places. It then curves and flows to join the brimming river. Its journey seems to be endless as it says "Men may come and men may go, but I go on forever."

### MESSAGE

The message given to us by the brook is that man is mortal and the brook immortal. There are many hurdles in life's long journey but we should carry on keeping our goals in mind.

### Poetic Devices

**Alliteration:** Alliteration is the repetition of sounds at close intervals. It is used to lend a lyrical or musical element to the poem.

#### **Examples:**

- I slip I slide.
- I gloom I glance.
- I murmur under moon and stars.
- Sudden sally

**Repetition:** Repetition is using a word, phrase, or clause a number of times with the purpose of emphasis or to provide unity to the poem.

#### **Examples:**

For men may come and men may go.

## Personification

### Examples:

- By thirty hills I hurry down.
- I come from haunts of coot and hem.  
I make a sudden sally.
- Till last by Philip's farm I flow.  
But I go on forever.

**RHYME SCHEME:** ABAB CDCD

### **SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

**Question 1:** Why has the poet used the word 'babble' for 'The Brook'?

**Answer:**

As the brook moves, its swift current strikes against the pebbles and stones under it, producing a tremendous noise. Thus, the brook seems to be 'talking' as it moves. Also its rapid spiral movement creates spirals of bubbles and it sounds very cheerful.

**Question 2:** Describe four movements that the brook makes during its journey.

**Answer:**

The four movements that the brook makes during its journey are swift, splashy bubbly and noisy.

**Question 3:** What are the different companions of the brook?

**Answer:**

The brook carries all that comes in its way, from the blossoms to fishes, the sand, pebbles, small stones and all that comes floating by.

**Question 4:** Why have the lines 'For men may come and men may go, But I go on forever' been repeated in the poem several times? What is the significance of these lines?

**Answer:**

The lines "For men may come and men may go, But I go on forever" have been repeated in the poem several times in order to lay emphasis on the brook being immortal. It is ironical that man is so arrogant though he is merely a mortal.

**Question 5:** How does the poet compare the life of a brook with that of a man?

**Answer:**

The brook flows through the fields and meadows and joins the sea. Similarly, man takes birth, grows old and dies. Men live for a short period but the brook goes on forever.

**Question 6:** What are the different things found floating in the brook?

**Answer:**

The different things that can be found in the brook are the blossoms, the lusty trout, grayling and the foamy flakes.

**Question 7:** How many hills and bridges does the brook pass during its journey?

**Answer:**

The brook passes through thirty hills and fifty bridges during its journey before it finally joins the brimming river.

**Question 8:** How is the journey of the brook similar to the human life?

**Answer:**

The brook is immortal whereas the human life is transient. The brook overcomes all hurdles on the way to its destination whereas the humans are subjected to emotional breakdowns and despair.

**Question 9:** "Tennyson not only describes the beautiful journey of the brook but also comments on the transitory nature of human life."

Comment.

**Answer:**

Man's life is not eternal. He takes birth, lives and then dies. For a human being, death marks the end of his life. The brook is immortal. Though the brook merges into a river, it remains ever flowing from its origin to the point of merger. It goes on forever.

**Question 10:** What is the 'refrain' in the poem, 'The brook'? What effect does it create?

**Or**

What is the symbolic meaning conveyed by 'For men may come and men may go, but I go on forever'?

**Answer:**

The refrain of the poem is 'For men may come and men may go, but I go on forever'. It shows the transitory nature of human life and the eternal life of nature. Man is mortal and continues his journey till he meets his death. The brook on the other hand is immortal. It is perennial and flows on till eternity.

**Question 11:** The journey of a brook is eternal and forever. Explain.

**Answer:**

The brook has a constant and an eternal journey. It moves on incessantly overcoming all the difficulties that it faces on its way. Though it merges into the sea, it remains ever-flowing from its origin to the point of merger. It is immortal. It goes on forever.

**Question 12:** Describe a lesson of life that the brook teaches us.

**Answer:**

The brook teaches us that life is full of hurdles but we should not slow down. We must continue ahead keeping our goals in mind. If we do so, we are sure to achieve happiness and fulfilment.

### **LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS**

**Question 1:** How does the poem, The Brook, teach the value of generosity, courtesy and benevolence? Which values out of these do you think are missing and need to be imbibed by our young generation?

**Answer:** The poet draws a parallelism between the journey of a brook and the humans. The brook is generous. It deposits silt across its bank throughout the way. It nourishes the soil and prevents soil erosion. The brook is also very courteous as it never repels anything, but draws everything along. Just like the journey of the brook, humans also have to pass through various ups and downs in life. Like the brook, we too have to overcome them and move on, forgetting mutual differences. Today's generation misses the quality of courtesy and patience above everything else. This needs to be imbibed.

**Question 2:** What kind of an attitude does the brook reflect in general towards the various situations that it comes across on its journey towards the river? What message do we get from it?

**Or**

Bring out the parallelism between the movement of the brook and the course of human life.

**Answer:** The brook is a symbol of life. The poet has compared the brook's journey with that of human life. Just like a human being, the brook also emerges (takes birth), grows young, becomes old and wise. In its childhood, it is very cheerful. It moves rapidly and swiftly.

In its youth, it is full of strength. It 'frets', 'bickers' and 'chatters' which are symbolic of young age. It is a source of life and support for other living things like fish, blossoms, etc. Then it reaches its old age. Like human beings, it becomes weak and moves slowly. It 'slides' by hazel covers and 'steals' by lawns. Now the brook flows silently. Its ultimate aim is to reach its destination, i.e., the brimming river.

The brook faces and overcomes many difficulties and hurdles in its way. Man should learn a lesson from the brook. He should not lose heart in the face of hurdles, pressures and dangers. He should not fret and fume in the face of difficulties.

**Question 3:** Obstacles and hurdles are a part and parcel of man's life. Discuss with reference to the poem 'The Brook'.

**Or**

The brook comes across many hurdles in the course of its journey. Compare its journey with man's life.

**Answer:** The journey of both, the brook and human beings commences with birth. Both have a desire to move forward and explore the world. Neither the life of a man nor the journey of the brook is smooth. Both come across different situations. Just as the brook passes through many ups and downs throughout its journey, man also faces many ups and downs in his life. As man moves forward, he becomes mature and finally his life comes to an end. Similarly, the brook moves forward and its journey ends when it merges in the river. The only difference between the two is that the brook is eternal whereas man's existence is transitory.

**Question 4:** Does the title 'The Brook' suit the poem? Comment

**Answer:** 'The Brook' is an autobiographical poem. The poet has used the poetic device personification in this poem. The brook narrates its journey right from the time it emerges from the 'haunts of coot and hems' to its end which is 'to join the brimming river'. Personification has made this narration quite interesting. The use of words like frets, bicker, chatter bring before us an image of a young angry man, whereas the movement is described by many other beautiful comparisons. The description is very vivid and makes one feel as if the brook is a living thing, narrating the story of its own life. Hence, the title "The Brook" is appropriate.

### **RTC 1.**

I come from haunts of coot and hern;  
I make a sudden sally  
And sparkle out among the fern,  
To bicker down a valley'.

- (a) Who comes from the haunts of coot and hem?
- (b) What does it do among the fern?
- (c) Why does the word, 'bicker' mean here?

**Answer:**(a) The brook

(b) It shines.

(c) Rush quickly

### **RTC 2.**

I chatter, chatter, as I flow '  
To join the brimming river,  
For men may come and men may go,  
But I go on forever.

- (a) What is the rhyme scheme of the above stanza?
- (b) Name the poetic device used in the first line.
- (c) Explain the meaning of the third and fourth lines.

**Answer:**(a) abab.

(b) Onomatopoeia/Personification.

(c) It means that man is mortal but the objects of nature are immortal.

### **RTC 3.**

"Till last by Philip's farm I flow  
To join the brimming river,  
For men may come and men may go,

But I go on forever.”

- (a) Where is Philip’s farm situated?
- (b) What does the phrase brimming river mean?
- (c) Which poetic device is used here?

**Answer:**(a) Philip’s farm is situated close to the river into which the brook finally merges.

(b) The river is full to the brim; it is overflowing with water.

(c) Personification/Refrain.

#### **RTC 4.**

“I slip, I slide, I gloom, I glance,  
Among my skimming swallows;  
I make the netted sunbeam dance  
Against my sandy shallows.”

- (a) Name the literary device used in this stanza.
- (b) Why did the swallows touch the surface of the brook?
- (c) What do ‘slipping’, ‘sliding’, ‘gloom’ and ‘glancing’ reflect?

**Answer:**(a) Alliteration.

(b) The swallows touch the surface of the brook to catch the fish.

(c) All these words reflect the various moods and movements of the brook

#### **RTC 5.**

“I murmur under moon and stars;  
in brambly wilderness;  
I linger by my shingly bars;  
I loiter round my cresses.”

- (a) Who is ‘I’ here?
- (b) What does the word ‘linger’ indicate?
- (c) When does ‘I’ murmur?

**Answer:**(a) The Brook. .

(b) The word ‘linger’ indicates slow and soft movement.

(c) The brook murmurs while passing through brambly wilderness under the moon and stars.

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