



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VII	Department: ENGLISH	Date of Submission: May 2023
STUDY NOTES	Topic: On the Grasshopper and Cricket (POEM)	Note: For reference



Summary of the Poem

In this poem, the poet expresses the beauty of nature. He says that the music of the earth is always alive. During the summer all birds get tired due to the heat of the sun and take shelter under the shadow of trees. It is then that they stop singing the songs. The poet says, even then the song of nature can be heard. At that time, the grasshopper sings songs flying from one garden to another. He leads the way and sings the everlasting song of nature. During summer, he enjoys the pleasure of singing. When he gets tired with the fun, he rests beneath some weed.

The poet elaborates that the poetry of the earth never ends. During the winter season in the silent frosty evening, the birds stop singing songs. However, at that time, the cricket begins to sing and spreads the warmth of joy everywhere. The people who are half-sleep feel that it is the grasshopper song which is coming from the grassy hills.

Through this poem, the poet sends the message that nature is beautiful all the time, irrespective of the season. So, in a similar way, we should be joyful in our life and be happy in all situations, whether the conditions are in our favour or against us.



THEME OF THE POEM:

Nature is always a spontaneous source of optimism and happiness is the theme of the poem. Nature never imparts pessimism and is never sad and is always singing. Change in situation on weather does not bring hindrances in the ever-continuous mirth of nature.

MOOD OF THE POEM:

The mood of the poem is joyous. The poem seeks to celebrate the calls of the grasshopper and cricket in short, the voice of nature herself. The setting is luxurious, as the poem celebrates all phases of nature.

LITERARY DEVICES:

***Personification**- Personification is a poetic device in which a thing or an idea is given human attributes.

e.g. —The poetry of earth is never dead:

This line means that the earth will continue to be beautiful and poetic in its own way.

"he rests at ease,"

"frost has wrought"

Frost is personified as a person who brings silence.

***Alliteration**- It is a stylistic device in which a number of words, having the same first consonant sound, occur close together in a series.

e.g. "mown mead"

***Rhyming scheme** - On the Grasshopper and the Cricket' is a fourteen lines sonnet with a rhyme scheme of **abba cbbc def def**

Symbolism in the poem:

On the Grasshopper and the Cricket is full of symbolism, making it a symbolic poem. They use of symbols to represent ideas in art, literature or conversation is called **symbolism**.

In the poem, the grasshopper is the symbol of a sunny day or the season of summer. Similarly, the cricket is the symbol of a lone, winter evening or the season of winter.

Extended Learning:

Read this short poem on a housefly:

*A housefly is a funny insect
It thinks, it doesn't need to inspect
It will eat whatever it may find
Even trash it doesn't seem to mind.*

Now write a poem on your own on the theme of: Nature, Insect or seasons keeping these points in mind:

- Think of your theme/subject
- Decide on a rhyme scheme
- Prepare a list of rhyming words
- Write your poem using the words you've prepared
- Give your title a suitable title and draw a small illustration related to it
- Read it aloud in class and enjoy listening to your classmates poems too😊

INSECTS



Ant



Grasshopper



Bee



Fly



Butterfly



Ladybug



Spider



Mosquito



Cockroach

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