



## INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

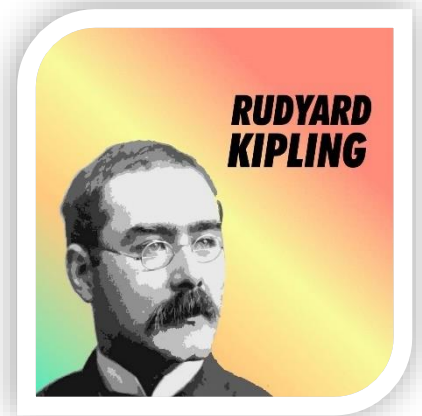
<b>Class: VIII</b>	<b>Department: ENGLISH</b>	<b>Date of Submission: January 2024</b>
<b>QUESTION BANK No: 31</b>	<b>Topic: The Way through the Woods (Poem)</b>	<b>Note: NOTEBOOK</b>

The Way Through the Woods  
- Rudyard Kipling

**About the poem:**

This poem is a part of his collection of short stories 'Rewards and Fairies'. Each story in this collection was followed by a poem. This poem is well-known for supernatural elements, active lifestyle and paradox uses. The poem unfolds the memories of little things that are missed by the poet presented in flashback technique to the reader. It is not only presenting nature at its best but sets a mood of mystery and strange happenings in nature, all pertaining to the beauty of nature.

The poem reveals Rudyard Kipling's love for nature, his style of writing about nature and his relationship with the nature which is also evident in his 'Jungle Book', and 'Kim'.



**Literary Devices**

In this poem, the poet uses a few different literary devices. For example:

- **Symbolism:** The road through the woods is meant to **symbolize** human endeavors and the passage of time, while the hidden path represents forgotten histories and the enduring power of nature.
- **Personification:** this occurs when the poet imbues something non-human with human characteristics. For example, the rain is described as undoing the road, **emphasizing** its relentless and transformative power.
- **Imagery:** can be seen when the poet uses particularly interesting descriptions. For example, "That, where the ring-dove broods, / And the badgers roll at ease."

**A1. Answer these questions:**

1. Who can see where the old road ran?  
Ans: The keeper and the ghost can see where the old road ran.
2. Why is the otter not afraid of men?  
Ans: The otter isn't afraid of humans since he hasn't seen many.
3. Which lines tell you that the woods are full of life?

Ans: The lines that indicate the woods are full of life are- “where the ring-dove broods”, “and the badgers roll at ease, trout-ringed pools”, “where the otter whistles his mate”, “hear the beat of a horse’s feet”.

4. What are the various creatures that can be seen and heard in these woods?

Ans: The creatures seen and heard in the woods are ring-doves, badger, trout, otter and horse.

5. Which words tell you

- a. that it is not a clear night?
- b. that a woman is walking through the woods?
- c. what lives in the pools?

Ans: a. misty solitude  
b. swish of a skirt  
c. trout-ringed pool

## **A2. Answer these questions with reference to the context:**

1. *‘There was once a road through the woods.....’*

a) What happened to the road that once ran through the woods?

Ans: The road that ran through the woods disappeared.

b) How long ago did it exist?

Ans: It existed seventy years ago.

c) How has it disappeared?

Ans: It has disappeared due to weather and rain.

2. *‘It is underneath the coppice and heath  
And the thin anemones...’*

a) What is under the coppice and heath?

Ans: The road is under the coppice and heath.

b) Why is it hidden there?

Ans: The road is hidden there because nature has claimed its place again through tree and shrub plantation.

c) How many know that it is there?

Ans: Only the keeper of that area knows about it.

3. *‘You will hear the beat of a horse’s feet,  
And the swish of a skirt in the dew...’*

a) How and when is a horse’s gallop heard in the forest?

Ans: If someone enters the woods on a summer evening, they can hear the horse’s feet beating on the ground.

b) What imagery does the phrase, ‘the swish of a skirt’, bring to your mind?

Ans: The phrase ‘the swish of a skirt’ makes one imagine that the place is windy.

## **A3. Think and Answer:**

1. What message is the poet conveying through the poem? Can you draw a parallel between man’s actions and nature’s reaction to them?

Ans: The message conveyed by the poem is that natural world will always overcome whatever is man-made. Man made a road through a forest which belongs to trees, animals, and birds, however nature managed to claim its land by regrowing trees, plants, shrubs, etc. and making the road invisible.