

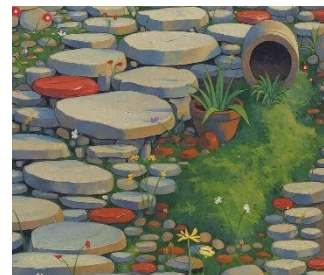


INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

CLASS: VIII	Department: ENGLISH	Date of Submission: APRIL 2026
Worksheet No. 6	Topic: The Concrete Example ANSWER KEY	Note: To be done in the notebook

CENTRAL IDEA OF THE POEM

The central idea of the poem revolves around the ironic obsession with minute details in a hobby. It explores the contrast between Mrs. Jones's meticulous care for tiny, "delicate" plants tucked between stones and the narrator's oblivious perspective, culminating in the humorous absurdity of a garden where the prized flower is so small it is accidentally stepped on.



SUMMARY

The poem describes the narrator's neighbor, Mrs. Jones, and her unconventional "garden full of stones". Her garden consists of features like a "crazy path," a lily pond, a rockery, and a sundial. Mrs. Jones displays an eccentric level of care by planting tiny, "delicate" flowers in the crevices between stones, a task so minute the narrator imagines she must use a "pin" to accomplish it.

The poem concludes with a humorous irony: after the two spend "quite a quarter of an hour" discussing a particular flower, the narrator asks where the "lovely thing" is, only to be told they are "standing on it". This ending highlights the central theme of her meticulous obsession with details that are so small they are virtually invisible to others.

WORD BANK

- Crazy path:** A walkway made of **irregularly shaped stones** or fragments of paving, rather than uniform blocks.
- Rockery:** A section of a garden where **plants and flowers are grown specifically between rocks** or large stones.
- Sundial:** A garden instrument that **tells the time** by measuring the position of a shadow cast by the sun.
- Device:** In this context, it refers to a **design, motto, or inscription** found on an object, like the "strange" one on Mrs. Jones's sundial.
- Delicate:** Something that is **extremely fine, tiny, or fragile** in structure, used here to describe the small plants between the stones.

I. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. *My next-door neighbour, Mrs. Jones,
has got a garden full of stones:
A crazy path, a lily pond,
a rockery and, just beyond
A sundial with a strange device,
which Mrs. Jones thinks rather nice.*



(i) What can be inferred about Mrs. Jones's taste in gardening from the description of her garden being 'full of stones'?

She prefers minimalism and unusual garden design.

(ii) Identify whether the following statement is true or false.

The garden serves as a means to reveal more about Mrs. Jones herself.

Ans. True

(iii) What does the poet mean by 'crazy path'?

(iv) What does the sundial with a 'strange device' suggest about Mrs. Jones' personality?

- A. She has a fascination with unusual items.
- B. She prefers traditional garden decorations.
- C. She is uninterested in her garden's appearance.
- D. She likes modern and expensive items.

Ans. A. She has a fascination with unusual items.

II. Answer the following questions in short.

1. How does Mrs. Jones feel about her garden? Support your answer with evidence from the poem.

Ans. Mrs. Jones feels proud and happy about her garden. She enjoys placing "little plants between the stones" and even spends "quite a quarter of an hour" talking about a single flower. She values even the tiniest details, and takes delight in the hidden beauty of her garden.



2. Why do you think the speaker describes the plants as being so small that they could be planted with a pin?

Ans. The speaker uses this **hyperbolic exaggeration** to emphasize that the plants are exceptionally "delicate and small". This description highlights Mrs. Jones's **meticulous care** and patience in tending her garden.

3. What do we get to know about Mrs. Jones -based on her gardening style and her interaction with the speaker?

Ans. Mrs. Jones's gardening style shows that she values **delicate, hidden beauty** rather than grand displays. She carefully plants tiny flowers among stones, even if they seem insignificant to others. Her interaction with the speaker reveals that she is **patient, proud, and finds joy in small details**, delighting in showing off a flower so small it could easily be overlooked.

4. The poem portrays Mrs. Jones in a positive light. Support this statement.

Ans. Yes, the poem shows Mrs. Jones as creative and passionate about her hobby. Her gardening reflects her love for nature and her unique way of expressing it.

III. Competency based question

5. What does the poem tell us about the way people think differently about the world around them?

Ans. The poem shows us that people often interpret the world around them in very different ways, depending on what they value and notice. Mrs. Jones delights in the small, delicate plants she carefully places among stones. To her, beauty lies in subtlety and detail, even if others overlook it. The speaker, however, expects beauty to be obvious and striking, so he dismisses her plants as meaningless until she points one out.

This difference reveals two contrasting perspectives: one that treasures hidden, fragile beauty, and another that overlooks it because it does not fit conventional expectations. The poem suggests that our appreciation of the world depends on how we choose to see it—whether we look closely and value the small wonders, or only notice what is grand and visible. In this way, it emphasizes the subjectivity of beauty and the diversity of human perception.

EXTRA QUESTIONS FOR REFERENCE

I. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

1 .My next-door neighbor, Mrs. Jones,
puts little plants between the stones
They are so delicate and small,
they don't mean anything at all.
I can't think how she gets them in,
unless she plants them with a pin.

(i) Which are the figures of speech used in the phrase 'puts little plants between the stones'?

Ans. The figure of speech used in the phrase 'puts little plants between the stones' is alliteration, due to the repetition of the initial 'p' sound in the words "puts" and "plants".

Additionally, the phrase contributes to the visual imagery of the poem, helping the reader picture the precise and delicate nature of Mrs. Jones's gardening.

(ii) What is the rhyme scheme of the stanza?

Ans. aabbcc

(iii) What is Mrs. Jones doing in her garden?

Ans. In the poem, Mrs. Jones is carefully tending to her garden by planting delicate greenery in the narrow spaces between the stones of her rockery and pathways.

(v) Select the option that applies to both the assertion (A) and the reason (R).

Assertion (A): Mrs. Jones cares about the appearance of her garden.

Reason (R): She puts small plants between the stones in her garden path.

A. Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason correctly explains the assertion.

B. Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason does not correctly explain the assertion.

C. The assertion is true, but the reason is false.

D. Both the assertion and the reason are false.

Ans. **A. Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason correctly explains the assertion.**

II. Answer the following question. (Competency Based)

2. Why do you think the poet chose humor and clever word play instead of a serious tone to talk about the garden?

Ans. The poet utilizes humor and clever wordplay to transform a simple description of a neighbor's yard into an engaging character study. Firstly, this tone highlights the irony and absurdity of a "garden full of stones" containing plants so "delicate and small" the narrator imagines they are planted "with a pin". Secondly, it emphasizes a comic contrast between Mrs. Jones's meticulous dedication and the narrator's accidental clumsiness; this is best seen when, after discussing a flower for a "quarter of an hour," the narrator realizes they are actually "standing on it". Finally, the humorous approach portrays Mrs. Jones's eccentric obsession as whimsical and charming, making her pride in her "rockery" and "sundial" feel relatable and lighthearted rather than merely strange.
