



## INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

<b>Class: VIII</b>	<b>Department: ENGLISH</b>	<b>Date: December 2023</b>
<b>Worksheet No: 24</b>	<b>Topic: THE NIGHTINGALE AND THE GLOW-WORM</b>	<b>Note: To be done in English notebook</b>

### ❖ Summary



The Nightingale and the Glow-worm by William Cowper is a poem about a nightingale and a clever glow worm. The nightingale sings all day long and beautifies its surroundings with its melodious voice. At night, the nightingale who is hungry after singing hunts down the glow-worm as his meal. However, in the end, he loses his prey. The glow-worm being a quick thinker starts to compliment and praise the songbird. The nightingale listens to the worm with pride and is

pleased with the glow worm's sweet words.

The glow-worm further continues to mention that as the nightingale brightens and makes the day cheerful the glow-worm decorates the night with its light. He says that they both are the creation of God and they both have their purposes and hence should live in harmony with each other. With his eloquent and smart oration skills, the glow worm saves himself.

### ➤ LITERARY DEVICES

#### 1. PERSONIFICATION:

It is used to bestow human qualities or attributes on something that is not human. In this poem, the poet uses this device with respect to the Glow-worm, giving it the human ability to speak. The Nightingale listens attentively to the short oration or speech of the Glow-worm. They are shown engaged in conversation.

#### 2. METAPHOR:

The poet uses the device of Metaphor when the Glow-worm compares the Nightingale to a minstrel.

#### 3. IMAGERY:

Imagery is the author's or poet's use of language that appeals to the five senses in order to help the reader imagine exactly what is being described.

*He spied, far off upon the*

*ground, A something shining in the dark,  
And knew the Glow-worm by his spark...*

The poet has used imagery in the above lines. On reading the above lines, an image of a glow-worm shining in the dark comes to the reader's mind.

Answer these questions.

**1. What was the nightingale doing all day long?**

Ans. The nightingale was singing all day while the villagers cheered for him.

**2. How did the nightingale see the Glow-worm?**

Ans. While the nightingale was busy looking for food around, he saw something glowing and realized it was a glow-worm.

**3. Did he eat the Glow-worm? Why?**

Ans. The nightingale did not eat the glow-worm since the worm managed to convince the nightingale that they were both gifted and harming each other would not be fair.

**4. How did the Nightingale satisfy his hunger?**

Ans. The nightingale found something else to eat.

Answer these questions with reference to the context:

1. *'Did you admire my lamp, 'quoth he,*

*'As much as I your minstrelsy...'*

**a) Who said these words and to whom?**

Ans: The glow worm said these words to the nightingale.

**b) What 'lamp' is the speaker referring to?**

Ans: The 'lamp' refers to the glowing lamp that the glow worm is carrying.

**c) What is the speaker trying to do?**

Ans: The speaker is trying to save his life.

2. *'For 'twas the self-same power divine,*

*Taught you to sing, and me to shine...'*

**a) Who said this and to whom?**

Ans: The Glow-worm said these words to the Nightingale.

**b) Which 'power' is being referred to here?**

Ans: The power refers to the almighty who created the creatures and granted them special powers.

**c) What skill does the speaker exhibit in these lines?**

Ans: The speaker exhibits the skills of being smart, clever, and witty.



Think and answer.

**1. How did the Glow-worm save his own life? What impression do you form about the Glow-worm from this?**

Ans. The glow-worm saved his life by convincing the nightingale that they both were

created by the almighty and were special in their own ways, hence, it wasn't right to harm each other. The glow worm was extremely sharp, knew how to get out of a problematic situation.

**2. What quality does the nightingale display in the poem?**

Ans. The nightingale was impressed by the glow-worm's persuasive speech which shows that the nightingale was noble, understanding and reasonable. He understood the fact that every created being has a unique place in God's creation and enriched life in its own way. So, it was necessary to live in harmony with one another.

**3. What is the moral of this poem? Elaborate.**

Ans. The poem is based on the idea – 'Live and let live'. Everyone is blessed with some talent, and he should be free to make the world beautiful. Let no one be harmed.

*The End*