



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Class: Grade 9

Topic: Wind (Poem)

QUESTION BANK

ABOUT THE POET

Chinnaswami Subramania Bharati, also known as Bhartiyar (11 December 1882-11 September 1921), was a Tamil writer, poet and journalist, and Indian independence activist and social reformer from Tamil Nadu. Popularly known as 'Mahakavi Bharati', he was a pioneer of modern Tamil poetry and is considered one of the greatest Tamil literary figures of all times.

THEME OF THE POEM

The poem, 'Wind' inspires us to face the challenges thrown at us with grit and determination. We should be strong enough to face all the hardships of life with courage. Wind symbolizes problems and obstacles that we all face and go through at some point of time in our lives. The poem is a satire on human weakness and the power of the strong humans.

POETIC DEVICES

METAPHOR- The entire poem is a metaphor because it ends on a note of application to humanity to stand against all ravages, natural or man-made.

PERSONIFICATION- The poet refers to the wind as YOU, as if it is human. The poet is gently reprimanding it, just like a human being (Lines 5-8). The wind is also personified as God (Lines 12-13, 22), as a friend (Lines 18 and 20) and as a human being (Line 21).

ANAPHORA- This means repetition of the same word in successive lines. Lines 2,3 and 4- repetition of 'don't'. Lines 6,7 and 8- repetition of 'you'. Lines 9,10 and 11- repetition of 'crumbling'. Lines 14 and 15- repetition of 'let's'.

RHYMING SCHEME

The poem has no rhyming scheme. It has been written in free verse.

EXPLANATION OF THE POEM

Wind, come softly.

Don't break the shutters of the windows.

Don't scatter the papers.

Don't throw down the books on the shelf.

In the above lines, the poet depicts the destruction caused by wind. The poet appeals to the wind to be gentle. He requests the wind not to break the shutters of the window, not to scatter the papers or throw the books off the shelf.

There, look what you did- you threw them all down.

You tore the pages of the book.

You brought rain again.

In the above lines, the poet reprimands the wind for the mess it has caused in the house. The wind has not only thrown the books but also torn the pages of the books which means that the books cannot be read. The poet looks out of the shattered window and accuses the wind of bringing in more rain. The rain water can cause further damage to the mess in the room as it enters the room through the broken shutters. The strong and gusty wind signifies turmoil and trouble in our life.

You're very clever at poking fun at weaklings.

Frail crumbling houses, crumbling doors, crumbling rafters.

crumbling wood, crumbling bodies, crumbling lives,

crumbling hearts –

the wind god winnows and crushes them all.

In the above lines, the poet in a subdued tone accuses the wind of troubling the weak and fragile or someone too meek and mild to protect themselves from the harshness of the world. The wind tears down doors, rafters and even the entire wooden houses, leaving people stranded to face the harshness. The situation

idiomatically implies that the troubles in life come as suddenly as the wind causing destruction and leaving behind destruction and devastation.

He won't do what you tell him.

So, come, let's build strong homes,

Let's joint the doors firmly.

Practice to firm the body.

Make the heart steadfast.

The poet states that the wind is too self-willed/egoistic. He will not listen to any appeal, so it is for us to protect ourselves. We must build strong structures with firm foundations, so the wind can neither harm nor penetrate it. We must further make ourselves physically and mentally strong to be able to face the ill-effects of the wind. If we can do this, then the wind can neither frighten nor harm us. The wind can become our friends. The poet wants to convey the message that if we are strong-willed, we can face all the hurdles or troubles in life easily. On the other hand, if we are weak, then we will be surrounded by strong forces and be the downtrodden, and eventually be destroyed.

The wind blows out weak fires.

He makes strong fires roar and flourish.

His friendship is good.

We praise him every day.

Here, the poet describes the merits and the demerits of the wind. He says the merit is that it can blow down weak fire but if the fire is burning fiercely, then it will make it burn with a stronger force or more powerfully. The poet concluded that the wind is a friend to the strong, but is an enemy to the weak who fall prey to its force. Metaphorically speaking, we can overcome all our troubles only if we build a strong character. The poet invokes us to sing devotional songs in praise of the wind God for motivating us to be strong to face the challenges in life.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- Q1. Why does the poet appeal to the wind to come softly?
- Q2. Why is the poet affected when the wind has brought rain again?
- Q3. Why should we build strong houses?
- Q4. How does the wind make fun of the weak?
- Q5. What is the symbolism of wind?
- Q6. What is the theme of the poem, wind?
- Q7. What are the things the wind does in the first stanza?
- Q8. What does the poet say the wind God winnows?
- Q9. What should we do to make friends with the wind?
- Q10. Why does the wind not listen to the speaker?

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

- Q1. How does the poet speak to the wind?
- Q2. Why is 'Wind' considered as a symbolic poem like 'The Road not Taken'?
- Q3. What damage did the wind cause? How can this be avoided?
- Q4. The poet is a great lover of mankind. Justify with reference to the poem.
- Q5. What do the last four lines of the poem mean to you?

REFERENCE TO CONTEXT QUESTIONS

RTC 1

*Wind, come softly.
Don't break the shutters of the windows.
Don't scatter the papers.
Don't throw down the books on the shelf.*

- Q1. What does the poet ask the wind to do?
- Q2. What does the wind do?
- Q3. Why does the wind not listen to the speaker?
- Q4. Give another word for the expression 'to spread all over'.

RTC 2

*There, look what you did- you threw them all down.
You tore the pages of the book.
You brought rain again.*

- Q1. Who is 'you' in the above lines?
- Q2. What has it done?
- Q3. What has it brought again?
- Q4. What is the tone of the speaker?

RTC 3

*You're very clever at poking fun at weaklings.
Frail crumbling houses, crumbling doors, crumbling rafters.
crumbling wood, crumbling bodies, crumbling lives,
crumbling hearts –
the wind god winnows and crushes them all.*

- Q1. Who is considered clever in the above lines?
- Q2. Which word in the given lines would you consider as 'Anaphora'?
- Q3. What destruction has the wind caused?
- Q4. What does this expression 'winnows and crushes them all' mean?

RTC 4

*He won't do what you tell him.
So, come, let's build strong homes,*

*Let's joint the doors firmly.
Practice to firm the body.
Make the heart steadfast.*

Q1. Who are 'he' and 'you' in the first line?

Q2. Why will 'he' not listen?

Q3. What does the poet ask the readers to do?

Q4. Find a word from the extract that means the same as 'firm and unwavering'.

RTC 5

*The wind blows out weak fires.
He makes strong fires roar and flourish.
His friendship is good.
We praise him every day.*

Q1. What does the wind do to weak fires?

Q2. What does the poet want us to do?

Q3. Who is 'him' in the above lines?

Q4. Find a word from the extract that to opposite to 'condemn'.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Q1. Why does the poet appeal to the wind to come softly?

Ans: The poet appeals to the wind to come softly as it is doing more harm than good. It has broken the shutters of the window and entered the room. As a result, the books on the shelf have been thrown down and its pages have been torn. The loose papers that were kept neatly have been scattered all over.

Q2. Why is the poet affected when the wind has brought rain again?

Ans: The poet is affected when the wind has brought the rain again as it is now splashing into the house through the broken windows. The books and the scattered papers lying on the floor are, therefore, getting wet and spoilt.

Q3. Why should we build strong houses?

Ans: We should build strong houses to protect ourselves from the elements of nature like wind, rain and sun. In other words, we should make ourselves mentally and physically strong, so that we can face all the challenges of life confidence.

Q4. How does the wind make fun of the weak?

Ans: The poet says that wind makes fun of all weaklings, as they are too weak to protect themselves. It appears that the wind enjoys suppressing and destroying the weak who do not have the courage to face the hardships of life. The wind breaks down all weak structures made by man to protect himself, just to see how man will try to survive.

Q5. What is the symbolism of wind?

Ans: Wind has been symbolized here as the agent that rattles our equilibrium. Those who are physically and mentally weak will get destroyed in times of adversity, whereas the strong will survive. The strong will reassess the problems that have caused the damage and find a solution. The weak will just cry and blame the wind and the circumstances.

Q6. What is the theme of the poem, wind?

Ans: The theme of the poem is that we should have a strong body and mind, so that in times of adversity or difficulties, we are able to combat all odds. We should be willing to face challenges and overcome them with ease. There will always be someone waiting round the corner to overpower and defeat us if we are weak.

Q7. What are the things the wind does in the first stanza?

Ans: In the first stanza, the wind breaks the shutters of the windows. It blows so forcefully that it scatters the papers, throws the books from the shelves, and also tears the pages of the books. To add to the woe, it brings rain once again.

Q8. What does the poet say the wind God winnows?

Ans: The poet says that the wind God destroys everything weak that comes in its way. The weak crumbling houses, doors, rafters, wood, bodies, lives and hearts, and crushes them all.

Q9. What should we do to make friends with the wind?

Ans: We should make strong houses with firm doors. We should also make ourselves physically and mentally strong by building strong firm bodies and be steadfast.

Q10. Why does the wind not listen to the speaker?

Ans: The wind is arrogantly proud of its strength and power and does what it wishes to do. It has no compassion for the weaklings.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

Q1. How does the poet speak to the wind?

Ans: The poet speaks to the wind in anger. The strong winds are known to cause damage on land as well as on sea. Very strong winds can turn and sink ships. On land, they can play havoc with lives as well as on natural and man-made things. However, wind when harnessed can be brought to various uses like generating electricity, moving turbines and turning wind mills. The wind is responsible for bringing rain and cools the atmosphere after the scorching heat of the sun.

Q2. Why is 'Wind' considered as a symbolic poem like 'The Road not Taken'?

Ans: In the poem 'Wind', the poet appeals to us to be mentally and physically strong, so that we can combat all opposing forces. Be strong to vanquish and not be vanquished. The poet here shows how the wind breaks down all weak structures and extinguishes weak fires, but when it faces strong fires it simply assists to burn more brightly. The poet suggests that man should befriend the wind instead of shying away from its onslaught.

On the other hand, in "The Road Not Taken", the poet when faced with a problem, ponders over the situation for a long time. He weighs the pros and cons, and then finally makes a decision that would be deciding his future life.

The poems are symbolic as both are dealing with the 'state of mind' of the individual. The strength of the wind and the strength of our decisions will assess our strength as human beings.

Q3. What damage did the wind cause? How can this be avoided?

Ans: The wind causes a lot of destruction. It breaks the shutters of the windows, scatters the papers and throws the books from the shelves. It even breaks the doors, rafters, trees, man and man's hearts by causing suffering. This can be avoided only if man rises against all negative elements. In the poem 'Wind', man can only overcome adversity, if and when it makes friends with the wind. Man must make himself strong both physically and mentally so that in the face of any challenge, he can come out strong. The poet suggests that we must make wind our friend by which he suggests that we should develop the ability and confidence to extract the positive from the negative and transform it for the larger good.

Q4. The poet is a great lover of mankind. Justify with reference to the poem.

Ans: In the poem 'Wind', the poet wants every human being, especially who are weak, to become strong physically and mentally. The poet wants them to be bold enough to face any difficult challenges that come in their life. Just like if we have strong houses, we can keep ourselves safe in it, in the same manner, if we have strong hearts, we can face any difficult challenges of life.

People who are weak get defeated by their problems of life. The poet wants everyone to make their life happy by facing the challenges of life. The poet's thoughts for mankind prove that he is a great lover of mankind.

Q5. What do the last four lines of the poem mean to you?

Ans: In the last four lines, the poet inspires us to face the challenges and hardships in our lives bravely. Wind symbolizes the challenges that come our way. The poet further adds that the wind not only extinguishes weak fires but also assists the strong fires to burn more brightly. Metaphorically, the poet means to say in times of adversity, those who want to survive will accept all problems as a challenge, whereas those who expect others to help them will be crushed to death. It is aptly said- God helps those who help themselves.

REFERENCE TO CONTEXT QUESTIONS

RTC 1

Wind, come softly.

Don't break the shutters of the windows.

Don't scatter the papers.

Don't throw down the books on the shelf.

Q1. What does the poet ask the wind to do?

Ans: The poet asks the wind to blow slowly.

Q2. What does the wind do?

Ans: The wind breaks the shutters of the window, it spreads the loose sheets everywhere and it throws the books off from its rack.

Q3. Why does the wind not listen to the speaker?

Ans: The wind does not listen to the speaker because the wind is arrogantly proud of its strength and power and does what it wishes to do. It has no compassion for the weaklings.

Q4. Give another word for the expression 'to spread all over'.

Ans: Scatter

RTC 2

There, look what you did- you threw them all down.

You tore the pages of the book.

You brought rain again.

Q1. Who is 'you' in the above lines?

Ans: 'You' in the above lines is the wind.

Q2. What has it done?

Ans: The wind has torn the pages of the books it had earlier thrown off the shelf.

Q3. What has it brought again?

Ans: It has brought rain again.

Q4. What is the tone of the speaker?

Ans: The speaker is reprimanding/accusing the wind.

RTC 3

You're very clever at poking fun at weaklings.

Frail crumbling houses, crumbling doors, crumbling rafters.

crumbling wood, crumbling bodies, crumbling lives,

crumbling hearts –

the wind god winnows and crushes them all.

Q1. Who is considered clever in the above lines?

Ans: The wind is considered as clever.

Q2. Which word in the given lines would you consider as 'Anaphora'?

Ans: The repetition of the word 'crumbling' is Anaphora. The repetition is to emphasize the destruction of the wind.

Q3. What destruction has the wind caused?

Ans: The wind has destroyed the doors and also the roof of the houses. It has caused destruction to the trees, livestock and human beings too. It has caused immense pain to the hearts of all.

Q4. What does this expression 'winnows and crushes them all' mean?

Ans: The expressions mean that the wind crushed down all the things that comes in its way without discrimination.

RTC 4

He won't do what you tell him.

So, come, let's build strong homes,

Let's joint the doors firmly.

Practice to firm the body.

Make the heart steadfast.

Q1. Who are 'he' and 'you' in the first line?

Ans: 'He' is the wind and 'you' is the listener or reader.

Q2. Why will 'he' not listen?

Ans: The wind will not listen as its nature is to exploit or harm the weak and support the strong.

Q3. What does the poet ask the readers to do?

Ans: The poet asks the readers to build strong houses with secure hinges for their doors. He also asks us to be both physically and mentally strong.

Q4. Find a word from the extract that means the same as 'firm and unwavering'.

Ans: Steadfast

RTC 5

The wind blows out weak fires.

He makes strong fires roar and flourish.

His friendship is good.

We praise him every day.

Q1. What does the wind do to weak fires?

Ans: The wind extinguishes the weak fire.

Q2. What does the poet want us to do?

Ans: The poet wants us to make friends with the wind.

Q3. Who is 'him' in the above lines?

Ans: The wind is referred to as him in the above lines.

Q4. Find a word from the extract that is opposite to 'condemn'.

Ans: Praise