



Class VII

ENGLISH

Name of the lesson: On the Grasshopper and Cricket(Poem)–Chapter 2

Dear students

- This e-lesson will help you understand the poem *On the Grasshopper and Cricket*
- Please refer to the PDF of the textbook pages attached with this lesson to read the poem.
- Please **attempt the assignment questions in your English notebook** and copy the questions also.
- The answers to the assignment questions will be shared with you in the next lesson so stay ready.

Introduction

- “**On the Grasshopper and Cricket**” by **John Keats** is a fine piece of sonnet written in December 1816.
- A **sonnet is a fourteen line lyrical poem** which is divided into two parts, an **octave(eight lines)** and a **sestet(six lines)**. The first stanza of *On the Grasshopper and Cricket* is an octave (Starting from ‘The poetry of earth’ to ‘some pleasant weed’). The second stanza of the poem is a sestet (starting from ‘The poetry of earth’ to ‘some grassy hills’).

Please click on the link given below to listen to the audio recording of the poem.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBaetiKhNSY>

About the Poet

- John Keats was born in London on 31 October 1795. Although he died at the age of twenty-five, Keats had perhaps the most remarkable career of any English poet.
- He published fifty-four poems in three slim volumes and a few magazines. Keats had a special affinity (liking) to nature and wrote many nature poems. Try to read his famous poems such as *To Autumn* and *Ode to Nightingale* to get a better idea of his poetic excellence.

SUMMARY

The poem is in the form of a sonnet. The two stanzas are depicting how the poetry of earth is continued by different creatures in different seasons. The first stanza (Octave) describes a scene of a day in summer, while the second

stanza(estet)describes a scene of a night in winter.The grasshopper and the cricket become the agents of nature continuing the poetry of earth,or the song of nature,in extreme conditions of summer and winter respectively.Thus the message gets conveyed that the poetry of earth never ceases(stops)as it is continued by some creature or the other in every season.

In summer,when the birds feel weak due to the scorching heat and hide in the soothing trees,the grasshopper takes the responsibility and continues the poetry of earth by singing from hedge to hedge.Similarly in winter nights when there is silence all around,one can always hear the cricket singing from behind the stove.The cricket continues the poetry of earth in the cold night.However,one may misunderstand its voice to be that of a cricket singing in hills.This happens because the listener is sleepy and not alert.

Theme(Main Idea)

Basic themes running through the poem are:

1. **Nature:**It is a nature poem describing the beauty of nature and making one believe how every element of nature(birds,grasshopper,cricket,trees,and weed)is important in sustaining the continuity of the poetry of earth.The poet here celebrates the‘poetry of earth’–the music of nature which is omnipresent(present everywhere).The two opening lines of the octave and the sestet“*The poetry of earth is never dead*”and“*The poetry of earth is ceasing never*”say it all.
2. **Harmony:**The poem seems to be emphasising that beauty of nature is created only when all the elements of nature work in harmony with each other.The two stanzas of the poem appear to be showing **contrast**(opposite)but there is a unifying idea that joins them together.In other words,Summer and Winter;day and night;heat and chill,and cricket and grasshopper,though different from each other contribute in continuing the song of nature/poetry of earth.

Assignment Questions

[Based on your reading of the poem and the lesson above,answer the following questions.]

Q1.Choose the correct option and write your answer in the notebook.

- 1) Who continues the poetry of earth when the birds are faint?
 - a. Cricket
 - b.grasshopper
 - c.Wind
- 2) The birds are faint in the first stanza as
 - a. they are tired of singing in heat
 - b.they haven’t eaten anything
 - c.they want the grasshopper to sing

3) Which one of the following lines expresses the grasshopper's joy in continuing the poetry of earth?

- a. *He has never done with his delights*
- b. *He rests at ease*
- c. *Tired out with fun*

4) The word **ceasing** in the poem means_____.

- a. Starting b.stopping c.continuing

5) The cricket sings from behind the stove as

- a. It gives him warmth to sing in cold night
- b. There is food available
- c. He is scared

Q2.Use dictionary to find meanings of words given in the bubble.Segregate(separate)these words in two columns,in the table below,to describe the scenes in stanza 1 and stanza 2.

(Please note-One word may be suitable for both the stanzas.)



STANZA 1/SUMMER/GRASSHOPPER	STANZA 2/WINTER/CRICKET