



On the Grasshopper and Cricket

...when the nature is full of song

CONNECT *If you have had any special experience with nature, share it with your class. It could be about a place you visited, any creatures you saw, etc.*

REFLECT *We all have busy lives today with so many things to do! As a result, are we missing out on the joys and beauty that nature has to offer? Write your thoughts about it.*

IMAGINE *You close your eyes and suddenly, like Alice in Wonderland, you find yourself in a forest so different from those you have seen! Use your imagination and draw and write about this forest. Give the forest and the things in it interesting names.*

BEFORE YOU READ



John Keats (1795–1821) was a British poet. He was born in Moorgate, London. At home, John soon developed an interest in literature and history. After his parents died, he went to work with a surgeon. John struggled between his medical career and writing ambitions. But, he soon resolved to become a poet instead of a surgeon. In 1816, John's first sonnet *O Solitude* was published in a magazine called *The Examiner*. Some of his most famous works are *I Stood Tip-toe Upon a Little Hill*, *Sleep and Poetry* and *On First Looking into Chapman's Homer*.

On the Grasshopper and Cricket was first published in the year, 1817. It remains one of Keat's most loved poems. It has fourteen lines which qualifies it as a sonnet. Every poet has been inspired by Nature, and John Keats was no exception. He was a keen observer of his surroundings and even the smallest of insects didn't escape his attention and admiration.



READ

The **poetry of earth** is never dead:
When all the birds are faint with the hot sun,
And hide in cooling trees, a voice will run
From hedge to hedge about the new-mown **mead**,
That is the Grasshopper's—he takes the lead
In summer luxury,—he has never done
With his delights; for when tired out with fun
He rests at ease beneath some pleasant weed.
The poetry of earth is ceasing never:
On a lone winter evening, when the frost
Has wrought a silence, from the stove there shrills
The Cricket's song, in warmth increasing ever,
And seems to one in **drowsiness** half lost,
The Grasshopper's among some grassy hills.



Brainstorm

Why are all the birds feeling faint?

poetry of earth: the songs of nature

mead: meadow

drowsiness: sleepiness



CONSOLIDATE

A1. Answer these questions.

1. Whose voice do you hear on summer afternoons? Where does he go when he is tired?
2. Which insect takes over from the Grasshopper in winter?
3. Explain what the speaker means when he says, 'The poetry of earth is ceasing never'.
4. Why does the Cricket's song sound like the Grasshopper's?



A2. Explain these lines with reference to the context.

1. *When all the birds are faint with the hot sun,
And hide in cooling trees, a voice will run*
2. *On a lone winter evening, when the frost
Has wrought a silence, from the stove there shrills
The Cricket's song, in warmth increasing ever*

A3. Think and answer.

1. What is the theme of the poem?
2. Which season do you like the most? Give reasons for your answer.

A4. Learn Interesting Terms

On the Grasshopper and Cricket is full of symbolism, making it a symbolic poem. The use of symbols to represent ideas in art, literature or conversation is called **symbolism**. In the poem, the grasshopper is the symbol of a sunny day or the season of summer. Similarly, the cricket is the symbol of a lone, winter evening or the season of winter.



Find out more symbols in the poem. Then, write a short note about them.