



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VII	Department: ENGLISH	Date of Submission: May, 2020
STUDY NOTES	TOPIC: On the Grasshopper and Cricket (Poem)	Note:

ON THE GRASSHOPPER AND CRICKET

BY JOHN KEATS

SUMMARY OF THE POEM

THEME OF THE POEM

- ❖ Nature is the major theme of this sonnet.
- ❖ It is not difficult to trace the influence the natural world has on Keats.
- ❖ In his course of fourteen lines, Keats alludes to birds, the Sun, trees, hedges, meadows, frost and grassy hills.
- ❖ The poet talks about a cycle of **two seasons- Summer and Winter**. He also talks about **two insects - Grasshopper and Cricket**.
- ❖ The poet in this poem finds nature beautiful not excluding the HOT summer and COLD winter.

EXPLANATION OF THE FIRST FOUR LINES OF THE OCTET/ OCTAVE

The sonnet opens with the poet asserting that the ‘poetry of earth’, the ‘voice of nature’ is always alive. Even when all the singing birds are tired in the hot summer and take shelter under the shady branches of trees, the nature’s song can still be heard. A voice can still be heard which runs then from hedge to hedge and around the freshly-cut grasslands (mead).

EXPLANATION OF LAST FOUR LINES OF THE OCTET/OCTAVE

The poet praises the eternal beauty of nature by taking into account the song of a particular insect, the grasshopper, as a symbol of hot summer. A voice which runs from hedge to hedge and around the freshly cut grasslands (meads) is the Grasshopper’s. The grasshopper has the luxury of taking over the duty of carrying on with the everlasting song of the earth in summer, as he is ‘never done with his delights’. In summer, the grasshopper seems to be excitedly hopping around tirelessly. He takes rest under the pleasant weeds only when he is ‘tired out with fun’.

EXPLANATION OF THE SESTET- SECOND STANZA OF THE SONNET

The second stanza of the sonnet is set in winter season. The poet assures that the poets of nature are assigned to keep the poetry alive during the different seasons. The poet describes in this sestet that in an isolated winter evening, when frost has put everyone and everything in the silent mode, the tireless bard of winter keeps the poetry of earth alive. Breaking the painful silence of a long, cheerless winter evening, comes the cricket’s shrill notes from somewhere near the stove. His joyous song permeates the surroundings, becoming louder every moment as the radiating heat from the stove warms the room. In contrast to the dull, lifeless weather, the happy chirping of the cricket sounds thrilling, infusing new energy into one’s soul. It reminds one that life exists and the silvery snow will soon melt once, to make way for the spring.

In the last two lines of the poem, he describes the image of a man half asleep, beside the stove, lulled by the warmth of the fire and the monotonous drone of the cricket, he is about to doze off into slumber, in this semi-conscious state, he hears the cricket's high pitched notes drifting about in the air and mistakes it for the merry notes of the grasshopper singing gleefully among the hills on the warm mid-summer day.

RHYMING SCHEME –

OCTAVE/ OCTET – abba abba;

SESTET – cde cde

RHYMING WORDS –

sun-run-done-fun
dead-mead-lead-weed
never-ever
frost-lost
shrills-hills

PERSONIFICATION

- i. The **poetry** of earth is never dead
- ii. 'a **voice** will run'
Here, **poetry** and **voice** are given human attributes.