



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

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| Class: VIII | Department: ENGLISH | Date of Submission: |
| QUESTION BANK | Topic: The Way through the Woods | Note: NOTEBOOK |

The Way Through the Woods **- Rudyard Kipling**

About the poem 'The Way Through the Woods':

This poem is a part of his collection of short stories 'Rewards and Fairies'. Each story in this collection was followed by a poem. This poem is well-known for supernatural elements, active life-style and paradox uses. The poem unfolds the past memories of little things that are missed by the poet presented in flashback technique to the reader. The poem reveals Rudyard Kipling's love for nature, his style of writing about nature and his relationship with the nature which is also evident in his 'Jungle Book', and 'Kim'.

A1 Answer these questions:

1. Who can see where the old road ran?
2. Why is the otter not afraid of men?
3. Which lines tell you that the woods are full of life?
4. What are the various creatures that can be seen and heard in those woods?
5. Which words tell you
 - a. that it is not a clear night?
 - b. that a woman is walking through the woods?
 - c. what lives in the pools?
6. What can be heard on late summer evening? What do you think causes these sounds?
7. 'As though they perfectly knew' – Who do you think 'they' are? Why do you think so?

A2 Answer these questions with reference to the context:

1. '*There was once a road through the woods.....*'
 - a) What happened to the road that once ran through the woods?
 - b) How long ago did it exist?

c) How has it disappeared?

2. *'It is underneath the coppice and heath
And the thin anemones...'*

- a) What is under the coppice and heath?
- b) Why is it hidden there?
- c) How many know it is there and how do they know it?

3. *'You will hear the beat of a horse's feet,
And the swish of a skirt in the dew...'*

- a) How and when is a horse's gallop heard in the forest?
- b) What imagery does the phrase, 'the swish of a skirt', bring to your mind?
- c) Do the above occurrences appear natural to you?

A3 Think and Answer:

1. They shut the road through the wood. Who do you think are 'they'?
2. What message is the poet conveying through the poem? Can you draw a parallel between man's actions and nature's reaction to them?
3. Everything changes with time. While some changes are good, others are not. How do you deal with a change that you think is unpleasant?

A1: Answers:

1. The keeper and the ghosts know where the old road ran.
2. The otter is not afraid of humans because they hardly see any.
3. The lines that tell the woods are full of life are
'where the ring-dove broods', 'and the badgers roll at ease', 'where the otter whistles',
4. The various creatures that can be seen in the woods are doves, badgers, otters and trout in the pools.
5. a. misty solitudes
b. swish of a skirt
c. trout-ringed pools.
6. The whistles of the otter can be heard on late summer evening. The otter can be seen calling his mate. Also, the horse's feet tapping, the swish of the skirt, can be heard. Actually, there is no presence of such things, it's just poet's imagination.
7. The word 'they' refer to the people who used to visit the road once upon a time. I think so because only these people can be perfectly walk on the road because they were habitual to the road.

A2. Answers:

1. a. The road through the woods was shut down.
b. It existed 70 years ago.
c. It has disappeared due to the weather and rain and lack of use.
2. a. The road was underneath the coppice and heath
b. It is hidden there because it is no longer used
c. Only the keeper and ghosts know of the road.
3. a. A horse's gallop is heard on misty nights.
b. The imagery that these lines bring to mind is of a long skirt brushing along the ground.
c. No, the above occurrences seem a little unnatural.

A3. Answers:

1. The 'they' who shut the road through the woods are probably the authorities.
2. The message the poet is conveying is that if there is a road that people and creatures have followed, they will continue to follow it even if it is not officially there. This poem clearly conveys the message that the nature will reclaim all human encroachments as and when human occupation stops.
3. A subjective answer. Students should ponder up on and design an answer.

