



## INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

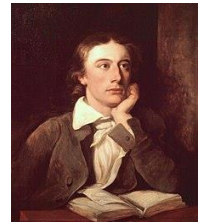
<b>Class: VII</b>	<b>Department: ENGLISH</b>	<b>Date of Submission: JUNE, 2021</b>
<b>STUDY NOTES</b>	<b>Topic: ON THE GRASSHOPPER AND CRICKET</b>	<b>Note:</b>

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR: JOHN KEATS

John Keats (1795-1821) was an English Romantic lyric poet known for his vivid imagery and great sensual appeal. His reputation grew after his early death, and he was greatly admired in the Victorian Age. He wrote sonnets, odes, and epics. During his short life, Keats' works were often criticized, but his reputation only grew after his death. Since then, he's become one of the greatest English poets of all time.

**Best Poems:** Some of the best poems he has written include "Ode on a Grecian Urn", "Ode to Nightingale", "Endymion", "Hyperion," and "When I Have Fears." His longest poems, Endymion and Hyperion, tell stories from ancient Greek mythology.

**Letters:** Although he spent most of his life writing poetry, his letters also won fame for him. His famous letters include; "To Charles Cowden Clarke" and "To Benjamin Robert Haydon". Keats is often called one of the great letter writers in the English language. "Here lies one whose name was writ in water." This is the epitaph that the poet John Keats prepared for himself.



### POEM IN BRIEF:

"On the Grasshopper and Cricket" praises the continuous beauty of nature by taking into account the song of two particular insects, the grasshopper, and the cricket.

It is a fine sonnet and a symbolic poem. The grasshopper symbolizes summer while the cricket symbolizes the cold winter. The opening line of the poem suggests that 'the poetry of earth is never dead.' Through his poem, 'On the Grasshopper and the Cricket' the poet asserts that no matter what the season is, whether it is the sweltering summer or the harsh cold winter, the music and the poetry of the nature is never dead.



During a very hot summer day, all the birds take rest under shady trees. Due to the scorching heat of the sun, they are tired and stop their twittering and singing. Yet the music of the earth does not come to a halt. The grasshopper goes on hopping from one hedge to another, chirping and singing merrily to continue with the music of the earth. It continues to sing delighting until he is satisfied and tired out with fun that it takes rest under some shady weed.

The poet again mentions that the poetry of the earth will never cease. It is omnipresent and ever-lasting. During the bitterly cold winter evening, when all living creatures have taken shelter for rest, an atmosphere of loneliness and silence prevails. Even then the poetry of the earth continues without any break. The cricket which has been driven indoors to seek the warmth of the stove sings a shrill song and it gets louder and louder as he gets more and more warmth from the stove. Now the living beings and the animals who are in slumber cannot find any difference in the song of the cricket from that of the grasshopper. They think the music of the grasshopper is still continuing.

Therefore, Keats wants to convey that all music is same whether it comes from the grasshopper or the cricket. The singers may be different but the tunes created are all expressions of love and happiness.

Keats belonged to the Romantic age and these romantic poets were escapists; they escaped into the world of



imagination and fancy from the world of reality, pain and suffering. In this particular poem, we find Keats asking his readers to concentrate on the music of the tiny insects which can bring some relief to the earth during extreme conditions with the sweet music they create.

**THEME OF THE POEM:**

Nature is always a spontaneous source of optimism and happiness is the theme of the poem. Nature never imparts pessimism and is never sad and is always singing. Change in situation on weather does not bring hindrances in the ever-continuous mirth of nature.

**MOOD OF THE POEM**

The mood of the poem is joyous. The poem seeks to celebrate the calls of the grasshopper and cricket in short, the voice of nature herself. The setting is luxurious, as the poem celebrates all phases of nature.

**LITERARY DEVICES:**

**Personification**- Personification is a poetic device in which a thing or an idea is given human attributes.

e.g. —The poetry of earth is never dead:

This line means that the earth will continue to be beautiful and poetic in its own way.

"he rests at ease,"

"frost has wrought"

Frost is personified as a person who brings silence.

**Alliteration**- It is a stylistic device in which a number of words, having the same first consonant sound, occur close together in a series.

e.g. "mown mead"

**Imagery** - Imagery is the name given to the elements in a poem that spark off the senses.

Despite "image" being a synonym for "picture", images need not be only visual; any of the five senses (sight, hearing, touch, taste, smell) can respond to what a poet writes.

e.g., "voice will run from hedge to hedge".

— all the birds are faint with the hot sun,

And hide in the cooling trees . . .||

"rests at ease beneath some pleasant weed."

—On a lone winter evening, when the frost

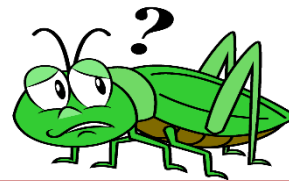
Has wrought a silence, from the stove there shrills

The Cricket's song . . .||

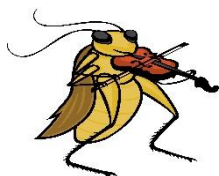
**Rhyming scheme** - On the Grasshopper and the Cricket' is a fourteen lines sonnet with a rhyme scheme of **abba cbbc def def**.

**Now you can do the activity match the following.**

**Pick the right answers against each poetic term:**



sonnet	2 lines
octave	14 lines
sestet	4 lines
quatrain	8 lines
couplet	6 lines



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