



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH (2026-27)
CLASS – X
QUESTION BANK- THE FROG AND THE NIGHTINGALE

INTRODUCTION TO THE POEM

The poem is a fable and like most fables it has a moral. The poem can be seen as exposing the role of critics towards any fresh talent; it can be read as a poem about a jealous person who does not let real talent flourish by discouraging and finally eliminating it. There is another subject the poet touched upon: lack of confidence that leads to disaster and the poet comments that one must recognise one's own capabilities and should not try to emulate others. The use of animal characters in the poem is to appeal to younger audience. The main characters are the frog and the nightingale, where the frog represents the cunning capitalist mind and the nightingale a vulnerable artist. The arrogant frog has been ruling the bog and torturing its residents with his cacophonous singing. The arrival of the nightingale and her singing provides the creatures in the bog a pleasant break who admire her sweet voice. The frog approaches her and appreciates her like a critic making her feeling flattered. He manipulates her making her sing for him in a concert and earns money by selling tickets. The poor creature does not know how she is being manipulated by the frog and sings till she has lost her voice and health. The frog pushes her to the verge where her health and energy fail her and she dies. The poem leaves behind a lesson that while it is good to be talented one must also watch one's weaknesses and instead of feeling flattered must cautiously tread one's way towards one's target.

GIST OF THE POEM

In a Bingle Bog, there lived a frog who always sang with his annoying voice. Other animals hated his voice. But the frog kept singing. One night a nightingale came and started singing. The whole bog admired the nightingale. This made the frog jealous. The frog said that the tree belongs to him. He is famous for his fine sound and his own songs. Nightingale asked him about her singing. The frog said that it was not too bad but she needs to adopt more powerful techniques. The Frog started training her. Due to excess practice of singing, she grew weak. At last, she died due to a vein burst. The frog said that she was a foolish bird and she should know that one's song must be one's own.

CHARACTER SKETCH OF THE FROG

The frog was cunning, greedy, proud and insensitive. This nature is revealed when he sells the nightingale's songs for money and makes her sing in the cold weather. It has been portrayed as arrogant, haughty, opportunist and boastful. He is used to his position as the only singer of the Bingle Bog. He irritates all the animals of the forest by croaking in the night. He never listens to the requests of the animals. The entry of the melodious nightingale is an eye opener. Being practical and worldly wise, he uses his position to influence her. Feeling insecure, he plays a trick with the nightingale and makes it believe that he is the master of singing. He manipulates the situation to his advantage, starts making profit by charging admission fees to the nightingale's concert. Ultimately, he succeeds in regaining his lost position when the nightingale dies. As he was a smooth talker, he brushes away the blame of nightingale's death by philosophizing it that "your song must be your own".

CHARACTER SKETCH OF THE NIGHTINGALE

She is portrayed as the innocent, naive, gullible, polite, unsure, timid, shy and nervous type. The taste of appreciation enhances her self-esteem making her gullible. With her extraordinary skills, she wins the hearts of the animals of the forest including the frog. However, the lack of confidence makes her a prey of the frog's trick. Trapped in the cruel circle of success, she pushes herself to a point of exhaustion. She gets addicted to her status and is unable to get out of the clutches of the frog. She tries to match the misguided criticism of the frog which results in her death.

POETIC DEVICES

1. Assonance: awn and awn
2. Alliteration: crass cacophony, mallard and milady, "Bingle Bog", "Dusk to Dawn"
3. Oxymoron: morning night
4. Enjambment: "ducks had swum and herons waded to her as she serenaded"
"every day the frog who'd sold her songs for silver tried to sold her"
5. Imagery: "shook her head and twitched her tail"
"Moonlight cold and pale"(creates a vivid picture)
6. Irony: The weaker and less talented frog ends up being successful, while the nightingale, who had exceptional talent fails miserably
7. Onomatopoeia: koo-oh-ah! ko-ash! ko-ash!
8. Antithesis: 'dusk' 'dawn', now then, up and down, sweet and bitter, 'morning' 'night'
9. Repetition: "far too nervous, far too tense. Far too prone to influence."
10. Metaphor: -"This is a fairy tale and you're Mozart in disguise" (comparison between two things without using like or as)
11. Anaphora – repetition of 'far too' in the start of line 3 and 4
12. Transferred epithet – 'And the crass cacophony Blared out from the sumac tree'
the whole admiring bog Stared towards the sumac

I] MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Where does the frog croak?
 - a. In the Bingle bog
 - b. From dusk to dawn
 - c. On the Sumac tree
 - d. On a toadstool
2. Why were the animals of the Bog dumbstruck?
 - a. the moon shone brightly

b. The nightingale sang melodiously

c. The frog sang very well.

d. all the animals came to the same place.

3. "Animals for miles around flocked towards the magic sound" What had made the sound magical?

a. skill and praise

b. art and fire

c. inspiration and skill

d. flattery and money

4. Which of the following do not indicate the nightingale's growing popularity?

a. Attendance by the aristocrats

b. The joy of the frog

c. The sale of tickets

d. The frog's reprimand

5. What is the main theme of the story?

a. helping others in times of need

b. destroying one's talent for personal gain

c. making one rich to help others

d. none of the above.

6. The birds and beasts stopped coming to the concert because the nightingale's song....

a. was always the same

b. was too loud

c. was uninspired

d. had no trills

7. What did the frog claim to be?

a. A great teacher

b. The owner of the sumac tree

c. A publisher

d. The king of the Bog

8. In which weather does the nightingale not prefer to sing?

a. sunny weather

b. rainy weather

c. winter

d. autumn

9. 'I don't think the song's divine But - oh - well - at least it's mine.' What does the nightingale imply by the last line?

a. She does not like the frog's songs

b. She sings from her heart

c. She wants him to train her

d. She is haughty

10. Many flocked to hear the nightingale's musical voice. Which one of the following are not one of those who came to hear the nightingale?

(a) Earl of duck

(b) Coot of Monte Cristo

(c) Raven of Salmon

d) Mallard and Milady Trent.

II] SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Which are the different ways in which the frog asserts his importance?

The frog asserts his importance by saying that he is the owner of that tree. He is famous for his splendid voice. He writes for the 'Bog trumpet'. He is a music trainer and critic like Mozart.

2. Compare the reactions of the animals towards both the frog and the Nightingale.

The creatures of the Bingle Bog loathed the frog's voice. They tried complaints and insults, stones and sticks and even prayers to stop the frog from singing but to no avail. However, the creatures admired and cheered the nightingale's singing.

3. What words has the poet used to convey his opinion about the frog's singing?

The poet calls the frog's song as crass cacophony – insensitive to the other creatures living in the area. He also terms it as a Foghorn which is a loud unpleasant noise that warns ships against dangers in the waters.

4. What aspect of society does the poet want to highlight through the poem?

The poet, gives us a message of the importance of self-confidence and moral courage in the poem – The 'Frog and the Nightingale'. The society has people like the frog and the nightingale. In the poem, the frog had confidence to sing though he received so many brickbats. Nothing could curb his determination to sing because he enjoyed it. In contrast the nightingale was out to please people and finally destroyed herself. Our self-image is often based on what others make us believe we are.

5. Why did the frog 'blare unrivalled' after the death of the nightingale?

The frog had been singing in the bog despite criticism from all the creatures. With the arrival of the nightingale, he felt threatened. The frog sensed competition. So he forcibly becomes her tutor and mentor and strategically plans, not only to finish her career but also to end her life. He schemed to put the bird out of the way. and makes her practice and sing in rainy weather. Due to over practice, the nightingale bursts her vein and dies, and finally the frog happily goes back to singing.

6. “Artists thrive and flourish due to the admiration of their fans.” Do you think this statement proves true in case of the nightingale? Discuss.

Yes, the nightingale did get addicted to praise and fan-following. It is natural for any artist to look for fame and popularity because they not only thrive on it but also derive inspiration to perform better. The nightingale was no different. She did not enjoy singing when the residents of the bog stopped coming to listen to her concerts.

7. How did the Frog break the nightingale’s spirit and destroy her?

The frog wanted to be the undisputed king of Bingle Bog. He sang to his delight and could not stand any kind of rivalry. He is extremely passionate about his loud and unmusical voice and has an exaggerated opinion about himself. When the nightingale arrives, she mesmerises everyone with her politeness and musical voice. The frog senses competition. He makes her sing in rough weather, endlessly and advises her to exert more and more. As a result, the nightingale succumbs to pressure and the frog emerges as the king of Bingle Bog again.

8. Do you agree with the Frog’s inference of the Nightingale’s character? Give reasons for your answer.

Yes, I agree with the Frog’s inference of the Nightingale’s character. She must have seen through the evil designs of the Frog and acted accordingly. But being innocent and simple-hearted, she didn’t evaluate the Frog’s tricks to wipe her out of Bingle Bog. She didn’t know he own worth. Being vulnerable and submissive, she paid the price for her death.

III] READ THE EXTRACT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW:

1] Animals for miles around

Flocked towards the magic sound,

And the frog with great precision

Counted heads and charged admission.

- (a) Why did the animals rush towards the Bingle Bog?
- (b) Why did the frog count the heads with great precision?
- (c) How did the frog cash on the nightingale’s success as a singer?
- (d) How was the frog associated with the nightingale?

1. a) The animals rushed towards the Bingle Bog to listen to the song of the nightingale.

b) The frog was a greedy creature and he counted each creature to charge them for the tickets of the

concert.

- c) The frog charged huge amount for the entry ticket for the nightingale's concerts.
- d) The frog considered himself to be the nightingale's mentor.

2] *Now the nightingale inspired,*

Flushed with confidence, and fired With both art and adoration,

Sang – and was a huge sensation.

Animals for miles around Flocked towards the magic sound,

And the frog with great precision

Counted heads and charged admission.

- a. What made the nightingale become a huge sensation?
- b. What does the phrase, 'flushed with confidence' mean?
- c. Which quality of the frog is evident in this extract?
- d. Pick out a word which is the synonym of 'accuracy'.

2 a) The melody and the charm of her song made the nightingale a huge sensation

b) The phrase 'flushed with confidence' means 'excited with firm trust'.

c)The frog is shrewd and clever, and knows how to get advantage of the situation.

d)Precision.

3] *Day-by-day the nightingale*

Grew more sorrowful and paler.

Night on night her tired song zipped and trilled and bounced along.

- (a) Why did the nightingale grow sorrowful and pale?
- (b) What did she perform at night?
- (c) What is the poetic device used in the phrase 'tired song'?
- (d) What quality of the nightingale is brought out through the above line?

3(a) She was constantly scolded and forced to sing.

(b) She sang tired songs.

(c) Transferred epithet.

(d) innocent, naive, vulnerable

IV] LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1.The frog considers the nightingale stupid and brainless. Do you agree with the statement? Support your answer with reasons.

Though the frog called the nightingale stupid and brainless creature, a sensitive being cannot do so because the nightingale was simple not stupid. She lacked the clever ways of the world and was ignorant enough to see through the sly plans of the frog. But referring her to be a brainless creature would be an exaggeration. Every creature wants to be successful. If the nightingale had dreamt to be so, she was not stupid. It was because of her timid, meek and gullible nature that the frog calls her brainless and stupid.

2. In this fast-paced world, simple beings like nightingale bear the brunt of the modern society. Keeping in mind the nightingale, attempt a character sketch of the nightingale that led to her doom.

There can be no denying of the fact that simple, honest and innocent people are misfits in the society of the present times. The nightingale was so humble, tender and simple that she could not enjoy the fruit of her success, the applause of the audience. It was snatched away by the cold, calculating villain, the frog. The poor nightingale was full of regard for her trainer, who exploited her thoroughly of her innocence and sold her song for silver. As she was very gullible and credulous, she could not understand why the frog made her practice excessively. She was scolded, humiliated to such an extent that she lost control on herself and died of bursting a vein. Such humble creatures have such pathetic fate in store for them that they are used and thrown away like discarded useless coins. So, the message that the poet wants to convey through the character of the nightingale is that simplicity, gentleness, meekness and submissiveness as characterised by her are the hallmarks of a person's character but these qualities need to be sheltered and protected with the defiant strength so that no sly creature of the world ever dares to overpower it.

3. 'The Frog and the Nightingale' is a symbolic poem. What lesson do you learn from it?

For survival and success, one must have certain qualities. One must be able to protect one's interest as well as one's life. Credulous people are always misguided by others. Those people who lack confidence always suffer. It is absolutely true that our self-image is often based on what others make us believe what we have. The need of the time is that one must imbibe those qualities that can protect us from the conspiracy and exploiting attitude of the heartless and cunning people. There is no end of the avarice of such people. We ourselves will have to know how to protect our interests. Though the Nightingale was superior to the frog in many respects, the frog exploited her and even caused her death.

4. The frog, who was not at all talented, ruled in the end and the nightingale, who possessed the fineness and versatility of voice, died. Explain the irony of the statement, highlighting the values the frog should have possessed.

The frog, who was not at all talented, ruled in the end by dint of his cunningness and wickedness. He was jealous of the nightingale and hatched a plot to get rid of her. He was dismissive and condescending and treated the nightingale as a stupid creature. The irony in the statement is that the frog was the one who tried to teach the nightingale to sing differently. He did not let her song to be her own. On the other hand, the nightingale was a meek and submissive creature who lacked confidence. Her gullibility and credulity made her an easy prey to the cunningness of the frog. Despite having the fineness and versatility of her voice, the nightingale met a fitting end as she was truly brainless. The frog philosophized that one's song must be one's own. One should realise his self-worth and should not think low of oneself.

5. The Nightingale placed her blind trust in the Frog but he exploited her. With reference to the poem elaborate on the statement 'Betrayal always come from those whom you trust.'

The Nightingale trusted the frog blindly. She never tried to verify whatsoever was boasted of by the frog. She regarded him Mozart and asked him to evaluate her song. But the frog was an epitome of avarice and evil. He was cunning, crafty and a shameless bully. The Nightingale never knew her virtues. She could not realise that she was far better than the frog. So, the crafty frog exploited her and caused her death. His blind avarice for earning made the Nightingale sing for long hours and tired her to death. So, it was indeed a betrayal of trust. In real life situation, we happen to see several examples of betrayal. Those who trust others blindly are considered foolish. Greedy people start making use of them as such people are considered to be so gentle and tolerant. So, the treacherous fellows betray such credulous and timid people easily in their own interest.

Key Points

- **Characters and Symbolism:** The **Frog** represents an arrogant, manipulative, and jealous critic/mediocre artist. The **Nightingale** represents an innocent, talented artist who lacks self-confidence and self-assurance.
- **The Conflict:** The nightingale sings beautifully on a sumac tree, mesmerizing the bog creatures. The frog, jealous of his lost popularity, decides to eliminate the competition by acting as her singing mentor.
- **Manipulation and Exploitation:** The frog criticizes the nightingale's natural voice, forcing her to undergo rigorous training in harsh conditions. He charges an admission fee for her concerts, commercializing her art for his profit.
- **The Tragedy:** Weakened by overexertion and constant negative criticism, the nightingale becomes nervous and loses her melody. She eventually bursts a vein and dies during a forced performance.
- **The Moral/Aftermath:** The frog, showing no remorse, blames the nightingale for being foolish and "too prone to influence". He returns to singing loudly and unchallenged, illustrating that talent is often silenced by ruthless, confident mediocrity.

Key Themes:

- **Self-confidence:** The importance of believing in oneself.
- **Exploitation of Talent:** How innocent talent is often preyed upon.
- **The Danger of Flattery/Criticism:** Blindly trusting others can lead to downfall.
- **"One's song must be one's own":** The necessity of maintaining one's unique, original voice.

HERE ARE THE KEY FIGURES OF SPEECH WITH EXAMPLES:

- **Personification:** Animals are given human qualities. The frog talks, teaches, and acts like an impresario (manager), while the nightingale acts like a nervous artist.
- **Alliteration:** The repetition of consonant sounds, especially at the start of words, is used throughout (e.g., "Bingle **b**og," "c**r**ass **c**acophony," "Trembling, terrified, twittering").
- **Onomatopoeia:** Words that imitate sounds are frequent, such as "Croak," "ko-ash, ko-ash," and "hoots".
- **Irony:** There is a contrast between appearance and reality. The nightingale calls the frog "Mozart," yet the frog is a talentless manipulator, and the nightingale's success leads to her death.
- **Metaphor:** The frog is directly compared to a famous composer to highlight the irony: "you're Mozart in disguise".
- **Simile:** A comparison using "like" or "as," such as "The nightingale was shivering like a tree".
- **Repetition:** Used to emphasize the frog's boring song: "He croaked awn and awn and awn".
- **Imagery:** Sensory descriptions create a scene, such as "Moonlight cold and pale".
- **Antithesis:** Contrasting ideas used in close proximity, such as "dusk to dawn" or "sweet and cloying".
- **Transferred Epithet:** The description of the frog's song as a "crass cacophony".

The poem's structure consists largely of rhyming couplets (AABB) which create a rhythmic, conversational tone.

