



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VII	Department: ENGLISH	Date of submission: MAY -2026
Worksheet No: 8	Topic: TRY AGAIN (ANSWER KEY)	Note: To be done in English notebook



❖ Central Idea

The central idea of the poem is that perseverance and determination are the ultimate keys to success. Failure is not a permanent state, nor is it a sign of weakness. The poem illustrates that even the most powerful people (like a King) can lose heart, but inspiration can come from the smallest creatures in nature (like a spider). True success belongs to those who pick themselves up and try "once more."

❖ Core Themes



S.No.	Word	Meaning
1.	monarch	A king, queen, or supreme ruler
2.	despair	A total loss of hope
3.	grieved	feeling intense sorrow, sadness, or regret.
4.	pondered	Thought about something carefully over a period of time
5.	deed	An action that is performed intentionally or consciously
6.	divine	To guess, figure out, or discover by intuition
7.	sprawl	An awkward, sudden fall or spread-out position
8.	endeavour	An earnest or hardworking attempt to achieve a goal.
9.	strive	To make great efforts to achieve or obtain something
10.	tread	To walk, step, or move along a path.



Ex. 1. Answer the following questions

Q.1. How does the first stanza help in setting the mood of the poem?

Ans. This stanza helps in setting the mood of the poem by preparing the reader for the king's journey of struggle and eventual determination as it is portraying a sense of sadness, disappointment of the King.

Q. 2. Describe how King Bruce's attitude changes from the beginning towards the end of the poem.

Ans. At the beginning of the poem, King Bruce feels defeated, hopeless, and discouraged. Despite being a monarch, he is deeply troubled because he has tried many times to accomplish a great deed for his people but has failed repeatedly. This leaves him feeling lonely, sad, and despairing. At his lowest point, he even considers giving up entirely.

However, when he observes the spider, his perspective begins to change. He watches as the spider struggles but refuses to quit, making nine brave attempts before finally succeeding. Initially, the king doubts the spider and assumes it will give up, but when it keeps climbing and finally wins, his attitude shifts. He feels inspired and motivated, realising that persistence leads to success.

By the end of the poem, King Bruce regains his courage and determination. He decides to try once more, and this time, he succeeds.

Q.3 The poet describes every action of the spider in great detail. What does this tell us about his attitude towards the spider?

Ans. The poet's detailed description of every action of the spider shows his deep admiration, curiosity and respect for its perseverance and determination. Instead of dismissing the tiny creature, the poet carefully observes its struggles and repeated attempts to climb back to its web.

Q. 4. How does the spider inspire us to overcome despair and not give up?

Ans. The spider's actions teach us that failure is not the end, but rather a step towards success, and that we must stay determined, work hard, and never give up in life.

Q.5.The poem teaches us that failures are stepping stones to success. Explain.

Ans. The poem teaches us that failures are stepping stones to success by showing how both the spider and King Bruce face repeated failures but ultimately achieve their goals through perseverance. It conveys the message that true winners are those who never give up.

Q. 6. The spider's journey tells us that anyone can be a source of inspiration in our lives. Elaborate.

Ans. The spider's journey in the poem teaches us that anyone or anything can inspire us, no matter how small they are.

1. Inspiration can come from anywhere – King Bruce, a great ruler, feels sad and hopeless, but he learns a lesson from a tiny spider.

2. Actions can teach us – The spider keeps trying even after failing many times. This shows us that never giving up leads to success.

3. Even small things can be role models – We usually look up to great people for inspiration, but the poem shows that even a little spider can teach an important life lesson.

4. Keep trying, no matter what – The spider falls many times but does not stop. In the end, it succeeds, just like King Bruce does when he tries again.





E.2. Reference to Context (RTC) Questions & Answers

Extract 1:

*He flung himself down in low despair,
As grieved as man could be;
And after a while he pondered there,
"I'll give it all up," said he.*

Q1. Who is 'He' in these lines and why is he in "low despair"?

Ans: 'He' refers to King Bruce of Scotland. He is in deep despair because he had been trying to do a great deed for his country and his people, but he had repeatedly failed.

Q2. What does the word 'pondered' mean here?

Ans: 'Pondered' means thought deeply or reflected on his situation.

Q3. What negative decision does he make in this stanza?

Ans: Out of sheer disappointment, he decides to quit and give up on his mission entirely.

Extract 2:

*Till up and down, now fast, now slow,
Nine brave attempts were counted.
"Sure," cried the King, "that foolish thing
Will strive no more to climb..."*

Q1. Whose "nine brave attempts" are being spoken of?

Ans: The nine brave attempts are those of the tiny spider trying to climb up the fragile thread to reach its cobweb home.

Q2. Why did the King call the spider a "foolish thing"?

Ans: The King called it foolish because it kept falling down awkwardly ("slippery sprawl") every single time it tried, making its hard work look pointless to the observer.

Q3. How does this extract set up the climax of the poem?

Ans: It creates anticipation. Just as the King assumes the spider will give up after nine failures, the spider attempts it a tenth time, changing the King's perspective completely.

Extract 3:

*"Bravo, bravo!" the King cried out,
"All honour to those who try;
The spider up there, defied despair;
He conquered, and why shouldn't I?"*



Q1. What makes the King shout "Bravo, bravo!"?

Ans: The King cheers because the spider finally succeeded in reaching its "native cot" (its web) after a final, steady, and bold push.

Q2. What life lesson does the King learn from the spider?

Ans: He learns that if a tiny insect can defy despair and conquer its obstacles through sheer practice, a human king can do the same.

Q3. What action does the King take immediately after this realization?

Ans: King Bruce braces his mind, casts off his sadness, tries one more time, and ultimately achieves his goal.

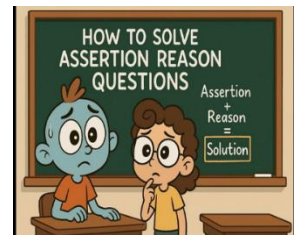
Poetic Devices

- **Metaphor:** The spider's struggle to reach its web is an implied comparison (metaphor) for King Bruce's political and military struggles to free Scotland. Their battles against failure are identical.
- **Repetition:** Words like "*tried and tried*", "*steadily, steadily*", and "*up, up*" are repeated to lay heavy emphasis on the continuous, unending nature of hard work.
- **Alliteration:** Repetition of consonant sounds close together.
"*But down it came with a slippery sprawl*" (Repetition of the 's' sound).

Extra Practice

Assertion & Reasoning Questions

Instructions: * Choose (a) if both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).



- Choose (b) if both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is *not* the correct explanation of (A).
- Choose (c) if (A) is true but (R) is false.
- Choose (d) if (A) is false but (R) is true.

1. **Assertion (A):** *The King called the spider a "foolish thing" during its initial attempts.*
 - **Reason (R):** *The spider succeeded in reaching its home on its very first try.*
 - (c) (A) is true but (R) is false. *Explanation:* The King did call the spider foolish because it kept falling, but the reason statement is completely false; the spider failed nine times before succeeding.
2. **Assertion (A):** *The mood of the poem shifts from sorrowful to celebratory by the end.*
 - **Reason (R):** *The spider's ultimate success inspires King Bruce to cast off his own despair and try again.*
 - (a) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A). *Explanation:* The poem ends happily because the spider's victory acts as a turning point that motivates the King to change his mindset.

❖ *Value-Based Questions (Long Answer Type)*

Q.1. . In the poem, the poet mentions that the spider made "nine brave attempts." Do you think failing multiple times makes a person a 'loser'? Explain your view based on the values learned from the poem.

Answer: No, failing multiple times does not make a person a loser. The poem teaches us that failure is a natural part of the journey toward success. The spider fell down with a "slippery sprawl" nine times, but those attempts were called "brave" because the spider never stopped trying.

A true loser is not someone who fails, but someone who stops trying out of fear. Each failure teaches us what went wrong and helps us try again with more experience and a "steady" approach. As long as we brace our minds and make another attempt, every failure is just a stepping stone to ultimate victory.

❖ Activity-Based Question: Learning from the Spider

In Eliza Cook's poem "Try Again," King Bruce watches a tiny spider fail nine times before it successfully weaves its web and reaches its "native cot" on the tenth attempt.

Look at the steps shown in **Figures 1 to 4**, which demonstrate how to make a model of a spider's web using ice-cream sticks (or twigs) and a piece of yarn/thread.



Part A: Craft & Reflection (Hands-On)

1. Try to recreate this yarn spiderweb craft at home or in the classroom following the sequence shown in the image.
2. If your thread slips, knots up, or the sticks fall apart on your first few attempts, **do not give up!** Keep trying until your web looks like **Fig. 4**.

Part B: Short Answer Questions

Q1. The Patience Test: How many times did you have to adjust or restart your yarn wrapping before you successfully created a steady web pattern? Connect your experience with the struggle of the spider in the poem.

Q2. Identifying the Steps: Look closely at **Fig. 2** and **Fig. 3**. Describe what specific action the hands are doing to ensure the thread stays firmly anchored to the sticks. Why do you think a "steady" hand is important here?

Q3. Character Connection: Imagine King Bruce was sitting next to you while you were struggling to loop the yarn perfectly in **Fig. 3**. Based on the lesson he learned in the poem, what lines or words of encouragement would he say to motivate you?

Q4. The Value of Effort: Once you reach the final stage shown in **Fig. 4**, how does it feel to see the completed web compared to the messy, tangled start in **Fig. 1**? Explain how this visual journey represents the core theme

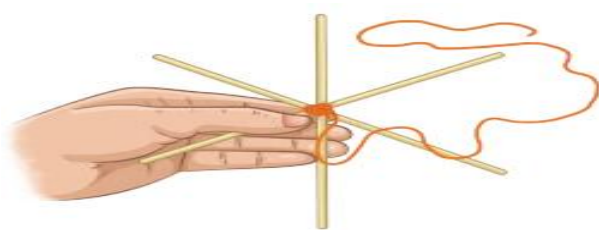


Fig. 1

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Fig. 2

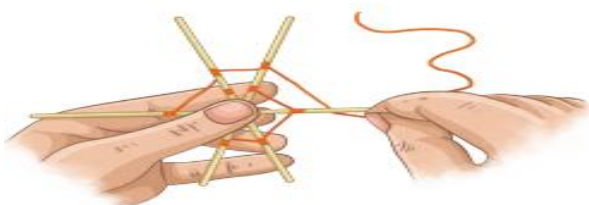


Fig. 3

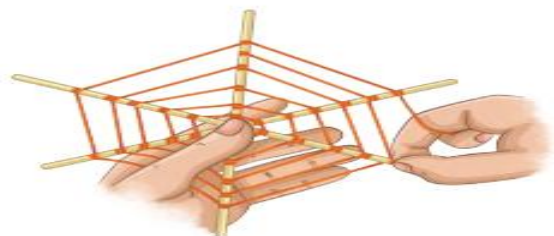


Fig. 4