



# INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

<b>Class: VIII</b>	<b>Department: ENGLISH</b>	<b>Date of submission: AUGUST 2025</b>
<b>Worksheet No: 18</b>	<b>Topic: THE SCHOOL BOY <i>BY WILLIAM BLAKE</i></b>	<b>Note: TO BE DONE IN PROSE NOTEBOOK</b>

## ✓ ABOUT THE POET:



*'The School Boy' appears in William Blake's 1794 collection Songs of Experience, which he later gathered into the volume Songs of Innocence and of Experience. The poem is a dramatic monologue in the voice of an 18th-century English schoolboy, who hates being cooped up in his classroom and would much rather play outside in the summer sun. The poem treats his frustration as not only serious but tragic, suggesting that the school system traps students like "bird[s]" in "cage[s]" and prevents them from achieving their full potential. The schoolboy closes with a plea to his parents, warning that his youthful promise may be "nipped" in the "bud" if he's not allowed to roam free, play, and enjoy childhood.*

## ✓ CENTRAL IDEA

The poem begins with the schoolboy telling us how he loves to wake up on a summer morning. He loves how birds sing in the morning. He feels as if the skylark is singing with him. He tells the readers that he does not like going to school every morning. He does not like how children in school are always under constant surveillance of the teachers. The children spend their day in sighing and dismay. He shares how at times he sits lazily waiting unhappily for hours for school to end. He expresses how he is unable to take pleasure in the knowledge the book has to offer, nor is he able to concentrate in the environment the school has to offer. This is because the education system is dull, repetitive, and has many limitations. He then compares himself and other children like him with a caged bird. He says just like a bird can't be happy and joyful in a cage, similarly, a child cannot be happy in a restrictive environment and forget about the joy and spirit their age has to offer. He also tries to converse with his parents by comparing his situation with a bud that is nipped. He mentions that if the buds are nipped and the flowers are blown away in the spring season, when they are actually supposed to flourish, they would bear no fruits when summer arrives. Just like this flower, if children are robbed of their youthful spirit when they are at this stage of development, it will only leave them in sorrow and dismay.

## ✓ RHYME SCHEME

The rhyme scheme of the poem is ababb.

## ✓ LITERARY DEVICES

- **Alliteration** – The repetition of a consonant sound at the beginning of two or more consecutive words is called Alliteration. For example – skylark sings, blossoms blown.
- **Repetition** – The repeated use of a word or sentence to lay emphasis on it is called repetition. For example- ‘summer morn’ has been repeated to emphasize that it was a hot summer day.



### WORD BANK:

S.No.	WORD	MEANING
1.	nip'd	‘to nip something in the bud’ is to stop or destroy it at an early stage of its development.
2.	strip'd	stripped
3.	plants strip'd of joy	if joy is taken away from plants



**Q.1. Find three or four words/phrases in stanza 1 that reflect the child's happiness and joy.**

**Q.2. In stanza 2, the mood changes. Which words/phrases reflect the changed mood?**

**Q.3. ‘A cruel eye outworn (stanza 2)’ refers to**

- (i) the classroom which is shabby/noisy
- (ii) the lessons which are difficult/uninteresting
- (iii) The dull/uninspiring life at school with lots of work and no play.

Mark the answer that you consider right.

**Q.4. “Nor sit in learning's bower worn thro' with the dreary shower”**

Which of the following is a close paraphrase of the lines above?

- (i) Nor can I sit in a roofless classroom when it is raining.
- (ii) Nor can I learn anything at school though teachers go on lecturing and explaining.
- (iii) Nor can I sit in the school garden for fear of getting wet in the rain.

## ✓ LET'S REVISE:

**1. Who is the poet of the poem “The School Boy”?**

- A. William Blake
- B. Thomas Wilde
- C. Rabindranath Tagore
- D. T.S. Eliot

2. "I \_\_\_\_\_ to rise on a Sunday morn"

- A. Hate
- B. Despise
- C. Regret
- D. Love

3. What does the boy like about the huntsman?

- A. Sound of his horn
- B. Hunting skills
- C. His personality
- D. All of the Above

4. Who sings along with the school boy?

- A. His parents
- B. Huntsman
- C. Skylark
- D. His friends

5. What drives all the joy away?

- A. Caged bird
- B. Nip in the bud
- C. Blown blossoms
- D. School on a summer morning

6. "The little ones spend the day, in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_"

- A. Sighing, dismay
- B. Happiness, glory
- C. Happiness, joy
- D. Sighing, sorrow

7. "Nor in my \_\_\_\_\_ can I take delight"

- A. Book
- B. Learning bower
- C. Dreary shower
- D. All of the Above

8. Who does he compare himself to when he says "How can a child when fears annoy, But droop his tender wing, And forget his youthful spring."?

- A. Book
- B. Flower
- C. Nip in the bud
- D. Caged bird

9. Who is he talking to when he says "if buds are nip'd..."

- A. His parents
- B. Teacher
- C. Caged bird
- D. All of the Above

10. How shall the summer arise in joy, Or the summer fruits appear if \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Buds are nipped
- B. Blossoms are blown
- C. Plants are stripped
- D. All of the Above



### **WEB RESOURCES:**

<https://youtu.be/y6dqqwuPCjY>

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