

ON THE GRASSHOPPER AND THE CRICKET

1. Which insect is the music provider in summer?

The grasshopper is the music provider in summer.

2. What do birds do in winter? Why?

Birds remain silent and hide in the winter. It is because they don't feel comfortable in the cold weather.

3. The poetry of earth continues round the year through a cycle of two seasons.

Mention each with its representative voice.

The two major seasons in a year are summer and winter. Both are rich in music. In summer, the representative voice is that of the birds and the grasshoppers. In winter, the cricket is the prime singer.

4. Find in the poem lines that match the following:

(i) The grasshopper's happiness never comes to an end.

(ii) The cricket's song has a warmth that never decreases.

Answer:

(i) He has never done with his delights.

(ii) The cricket's song in warmth increasing ever.

5. What is the meanings of the line: 'The poetry of earth is never dead'?

The poet wanted to say that poetry of nature is never going to end. 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.

Reference to Context

Question 1.

The poetry of earth is never dead:

When all the birds are faint with the hot sun,

And hide in cooling trees, a voice will run

From hedge to hedge about the new-mown mead,

That is the grasshopper's

he takes the lead In summer luxury

he has never done With his delights, for when tired out with fun

He rests at ease beneath some pleasant weed.

Paraphrase:

Like every poet Keats has been attracted towards the beauty of nature. He finds nature beautiful in all seasons not excluding the hot summer and cold winter. He says that the earth is always singing. When the birds stop singing in the hot summer

finding cool place, we find the grasshopper singing and flying from hedge. He sings tirelessly and when it gets tired, it rests beneath some weed.

- (i) What is an ongoing process in nature?
- (ii) Where do birds go when heat of the sun rise?
- (iii) How has the continuity of music maintained?
- (iv) Name the figure of speech in the above stanza.
- (v) Describe the beauty of the poem.

Answer:

- (i) Poetry, rhythm in nature is an unending process giving life to surroundings.
- (ii) As the heat of the Sun rise, the birds hide in branches to find a cool place for themselves.
- (iii) During the extreme heat when birds stop singing, voice of grasshopper delights with its music.
- (iv) Metaphor – Poetry of earth.
- (v) The poem is a 14 line Petrarchan sonnet with a rhyming scheme of abba – abba – cdecde.

Question 2.

*The poetry of earth is ceasing never:
On a lone winter evening when the frost
Has wrought a silence, from the stone there shrills
The cricket's song, in warmth increasing ever,
And seems to one in drowsiness half lost;
The grasshopper's among some grassy hills.*

Paraphrase:

When the birds are silent in very cold, the earth never stops and expresses its pleasure through different being like the cricket. It sings the beautiful songs from the stones. It seems to be increasing in warmth every moment and half – asleep human being feels it to be a grasshopper's song coming from grassy hills.

- (i) What is 'ceasing never'?
- (ii) Who takes up the job of providing rhythm during winters?
- (iii) From where do the cricket sing?
- (iv) What is the impact of cricket and grasshopper music?

Answer:

- (i) The poetry of earth is never ceasing.
- (ii) Cricket takes up the job by providing rhythm in extreme cold weather.
- (iii) The crickets hide under the stone and sing in its shrill voice.
- (iv) Crickets and grasshoppers make sounds that soothes the listener even its extreme weathers. The listeners are recovered from their drowsy sleep to listen to the endless fountain of relief with music of the nature.