

Grade VI

5. Where Do All the Teachers Go?

Poetry

Summary of the poem

Teachers are very special for their students. The poet does not think that his teachers are ordinary people. The poet wonders where his teachers go after 4 o'clock. He keeps asking too many questions such as whether the teachers live in their houses and wash their socks like an ordinary person. The poet wonders, if the teachers wear pyjamas or something else. The poet is not sure whether his teachers watch TV like any ordinary person and clean their nose with the little finger.

The poet wants to know if his teachers live with other people such as their mother and the father. The poet desires to know if these teachers were once children and were bad as kids. He wonders if his teachers were punished for making mistakes like writing wrong spellings and were ordered to stand in the corner as a punishment if they ate chocolates without permission.

According to the poet, his teachers are perfect. He thinks that perhaps his teachers have never lost their hymn books and never spread cooked green vegetables' like him. The poet wonders if his teachers have ever scribbled on the desks and wore dirty clothes.

He found a way to get his answer. He intends to follow one of his teachers to find out the truth. The poet will write about it later, so that the teachers could read it out to other children in a class.

Next Generation School

Stanza wise Explanation of The poem

Stanza 1

Where do all the teachers go
When it's four o' clocks?

Do they live in houses
And do they wash their socks?

Do they wear pyjamas

And do they watch TV?

And do they pick their noses

The same as you and me.

Reference The above lines have been taken from the poem 'where do all the teachers go'. It has been written by Peter Dixon.

Context In these lines the poet describes the general life of the teachers i.e. how do they live, how do they do others things.

Explanation According to the poet, his teachers were not ordinary people. The poet asked many questions such as where his teachers go after 4 o'clock. He keeps asking whether the teachers live in their houses and wash their socks like an ordinary person. The poet wonders if the teachers wear pyjamas. The poet is not sure whether his teachers watch TV like any ordinary person and clean their nose with the little finger as other people do.

Stanza 2

Do they live with other people

Have they mums and dads?

And were they ever children

And were they ever bad?

Did they ever, never spell right
Did they ever made mistakes?
Were they punished in the corner
If they pinched the chocolate flakes?

Reference Same as in stanza 1

Context The poet wanted to know more about his teacher and his childhood life.

Explanation The poet wants to know more about his teachers' life and whether live with their mother and father. The poet wishes know if his teachers were once children and behaved like them. He wonders if his teachers were punished for making mistakes like writing wrong spellings and were ordered to stand in the corner as a punishment, if they ate chocolates without permission.

Stanza 3

Did they ever lose their hymn books
Did they ever leave their greens?
Did they scribble on the desk tops
Did they wear old dirty jeans?
I'll follow one back home today
I'll find out what they do
Then I'll put it in a poem
That they can read to you.

Reference Same as in stanza 1

Context In these lines the poet intends to follow one of his teachers to know the truth.

Explanation According to the poet, his teachers are perfect. He thinks that perhaps his teachers have never lost their hymn books and never spread cooked green vegetables like him. The poet wonders if his teachers have ever scribbled on the desks and wore dirty jeans like other children. He was trying to find out all the answers. Finally, he finds a way to get his answers. He intends to follow one of his teachers to his home and

find out the truth. The poet will write about it later, so that the teachers could read it out to other children in a class.

NCERT Corner

Working with the poem

1. Answer these questions.

i) Why does the poet want to know where the teachers go at 4 o'clock?

The poet was curious to know about his teachers as he thought his teachers are special and not ordinary people. Therefore, he wanted to know where they go after the school.

ii) What are the things normal people do that the poet talks about?

Normal people live in their houses, do their daily chores and wear pyjamas at home. They live with other people and watch TV. They spell words correctly and are not punished in the corner as children.

iii) What does he imagine about?

a) Where do teachers live?

The poet imagines whether his teachers live in a house with other family members.

b) What they do at home?

The poet imagines whether his teachers wear pyjamas and watch TV at their homes. The teachers also wash their socks.

c) The people with whom they live?

The poet wonders whether his teachers live with their parents and relatives.

d) Their activities when they were children in school?

The poet wonders whether his teachers were naughty and mischievous when they were kids in school. He wonders if they had ever lost their hymn books and scribbled on desks.

i) Why does the poet wonder if teachers also do things that other people do?

The poet assumes that his teachers are extraordinary people and very special and uncommon. They are perfect in every aspect so he wonders if they do things which other people do.

ii) How does the poet plan to find out? What will he do once he find out?

The poet plans to follow one of his teachers to find out what he/she does. He wants to write about his findings so that other children will come to know about it.

1. What do you think these phrases from the poem mean?

i) Punished in the corner

It means that a teacher keeps an eye on his students in the class and if they do any mischief they are punished and made to stand in the corner.

ii) Leave their greens

Children do not like to eat green vegetables and throw them into the dustbins or leave them in the plate.

Chapter Practice

Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. What does the poet think about his/her teachers?

The poet thinks that his teachers are not ordinary people. They are very special for him. His teachers are perfect and possess many qualities.

2. What did the poet want to know about his teachers?

The poet wanted to know the schedule of his teachers and their routine after the school hours.

3. Why did the poet want to follow one of his teachers?

The poet was curious to know about the daily routine of his teachers after the school hours so he wanted to follow one of his teachers.

4. What is the theme of the poem?

The theme of the poem is to show the curiosity of a child to know about his/her teachers private life. For a small child, a teacher is not a simple person like others but a very special and ideal.

Short Answer Type Questions

1. How does an ordinary person live in a house?

An ordinary person has to wash his socks, wear pyjamas and live with his mother and father in a house. They watch TV and clean their nose with the little finger.

2. What kind of mistakes kids commit during their childhood?

Ans. Children lose their hymn books, leave green vegetables and throw them in a dustbin during their childhood. They also scribble on their desks tops and wear dirty clothes.

Value Based Questions

Do you think the poet considers his teachers to be like an ordinary man? Give reasons to support your answer.

Ans. The poet does not think that his teachers are like ordinary people. He wonders whether his teachers live in their houses and wash their socks. He wonders if they wear pyjamas.

The poet is not sure whether they watch TV and clean their nose with the little finger like other people.

The poet wonders if his teachers live with their mother and father. He wonders if his teachers were punished for making mistakes.

He thinks that his teachers have never lost their books.

He thinks that his teachers are perfect human beings.

Extract Based Questions

Extract 1

Directions (Q. Nos. 1-6) Read the extract given below and answer the following questions.

Where do all the teachers go

When it's four o' clocks?

Do they live in houses

And do they wash their socks?

Do they wear pyjamas

And do they watch TV?

And do they pick their noses

The same as you and me?

1. What did the poet ask himself?

The poet asks himself whether his teachers behave like an ordinary person and lead a life like a simple person.

2. Do you think the poet was curious to know about his teachers? Give a reason to support your answer.

Yes, the poet was curious to know about his teachers that's why he kept asking many questions to himself.

3. What kind of comparisons bring drawn by the poet?

The poet compared his teachers with an ordinary man and wondered if teachers wear pyjamas and watch TV like common men.

4. Give synonym for the word 'wash'.

- (a) Clean (b) Kind (c) Good (d) Select

