



Grade IX

Lesson 2.Wind.

- Subramania Bharati

Poetry

Soul of the poem

In this poem, the poet highlights the destructive as well as the constructive aspects of the wind. He says that the wind teases and makes fun of the weak persons or things. Wind symbolises the difficulties that one faces in one's life. Difficulties frighten us if we are weak. When we are brave, difficulties do not harm us and disappear quietly.

The poet asks the wind to blow softly and not to break the shutters of windows, throw the books from the shelf and scatter them. But the wind does not listen to him. It throws the books, tears their pages and brings rain. The wind god makes fun of the weaklings. He crushes them.

Since the wind does not listen to the poet, he advises us to be strong. We should build strong houses and strong windows. We should be strong in body and mind. If we become strong, the wind will be our friend. This poem symbolises the need to develop a strong character.

NCERT Questions

Thinking About the Poem

I.

1. What are the things the wind does in the first stanza?

In the first stanza, the wind breaks the shutters of the windows, scatters the papers and throws down the books off the shelf.

Next Generation School



- 2. Have you seen anybody winnow grain at home or in a paddy field? What is the word in your language for winnowing? (Give the words in your language, if you know them)**

Winnowing grain used to be one of the common scenes in villages where women used to assemble and separate chaff from grain. They used to sing and enjoy the activity. It has now been replaced by machines and the scene is now rare.

I have seen the farmers winnowing grain in the paddy field. 'Pachchorana' is the word in my language used for winnowing. People use chhaaj for winnowing, i.e. separating chaff from grain with the help of the wind.

- 3. What does the poet say the wind god winnows?**

The wind god winnows crumbling houses, crumbling doors, rafters, wood, weak bodies and crumbling hearts.

- 4. What should we do to make friends with the wind?**

The wind makes fun of the weak. It teases them only. If we want to make friends with the wind, we should make ourselves physically and mentally strong. We should make our houses stronger. Then the wind will become our friend.

- 5. What do the last four lines of the poem mean to you?**

In the last four lines, the poet inspires us to face the wind, which symbolises the hardships of our lives, courageously. He tells us that the wind can only extinguish the weak fires; it intensifies the stronger ones. Similarly, adversities deter the weak-hearted but make stronger those who have unfaltering will. In such a case, befriending the wind or the hardships of life makes it easier for us to face them.

- 6. How does the poet speak to the wind - in anger or with humour? You must also have seen or heard of the wind "crumbling lives". What is your response to this? Is it like the poet's?**

The poet speaks to the wind in anger. He highlights the destructive nature of the wind. He is angry when he finds the wind crumbling lives. He is unhappy when he notices that the wind is friendly with the strong ones and teases the weaklings. Yes, I have seen the wind crumbling lives. When it turns into a storm, it can blow big trees, houses and everything else. My response is similar to that of the poet.



II. The poem you have just read is originally in the Tamil. Do you know any such poems in your language?

Yes, I have read another poem on wind. It is titled 'Toofan' and was originally written in Hindi by Naresh Aggarwal.

Solved Question Bank

Reference-to-Context Questions

Q. Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. Wind, come softly.

Don't break the shutters of the windows.

Don't scatter the papers.

Don't throw down the books on the shelf.

There, look what you did-you threw them all down.

You tore the pages of the books.

You brought rain again.

a. In the above lines the poet is talking to the _____.

Wind

b. The two powerful and destructive activities of the wind are (i) _____ (ii) _____.

(i) breaking the window shutters, (ii) Scattering the papers

c. The poet wants the wind to be always active and loud.

False

d. _____ in the above lines is the opposite of 'gather'.

'Scatter'

2. You're very clever at poking fun at weaklings.

Frail crumbling houses, crumbling doors, crumbling rafters,

Crumbling wood, crumbling bodies, crumbling lives,

Crumbling hearts -

The wind god winnows and crushes them all.



a. The wind is very clever because it pokes fun at the _____ people.

Weak

b. The wind is powerful enough to _____ houses, doors, etc.

Crumble

c. In the last line, the poet is addressing the wind as 'God'.

True

d. _____ means the same as 'separates or sifts'.

'Winnows'

3. He won't do what you tell him

So, come, let's build strong homes,

Let's joint the doors firmly.

Practise to firm the body.

Make the heart steadfast.

a. _____ will never obey you.

The wind

b. As a preparation, we should build _____ and firmly close the doors.

Strong homes

c. We all need to make our bodies strong and hearts firm.

True

d. _____ in the above lines means same as 'resolute'.

'Steadfast'

4. Do this, and the wind will be friends with us.

The wind blows out weak fires.

The makes strong fires roar and flourish.

His friendship is good.

We praise him every day.

a. 'He' in the above lines has been used for the wind. This literary device is called
fires. _____

Personification

b. The wind has the capability to _____ and _____ the strong

Flourish, roar



c. The poet wants us to defame the wind every day as his friendship is good.

False

d. _____ is the antonym 'friendship'.

'Enmity'

Short Answer Questions

1. 'The wind blows out weak fires'. What does the expression 'blows out weak fires' mean?

This expression implies that friendship is mostly among equals. Wind who is very strong does not behave in a friendly way with the weak. It destroys the weak things.

2. 'Make the heart steadfast'. Explain.

The poet advised that while facing wind, one should have a strong heart and a strong physique. Wind is not friendly with weak characters. The weak fire is blown out, whereas the strong fire is ignited by wind.

3. How does the poet describe the wind in the poem 'Wind'?

The poet describes wind in two forms. One is fierce and violent that destroys everything. It is not friendly with the weak characters. It blows them out completely. The second form of wind is cool and slow. It brings comfort and happiness to the world.

4. According to the poet, what are the things which are destroyed by the wind?

According to the poet, the wind is not friendly with the weak characters. It troubles them more. It destroys their crumbling houses, doors, rafters, wood, bodies, lives, hearts and crops.

5. 'We praise him every day'. Explain

'We praise him every day'. Here 'him' stands for the wind. We praise the wind every day because it provides us strength and life. We cannot think of life without air. As long as wind is our friends, it is praiseworthy.

6. How does the wind deal with the weaklings?

The wind makes fun of the weaklings. It teases them. It destroys the weaklings. The wind winnows and crushes them. The weak are not able to withstand the power of the wind.



7. 'He won't do what you tell him'. Who is 'her'? Why does he not obey him?

In this line, 'he' stands for 'wind'. The wind does not obey man because it is so powerful that it cannot be controlled.

8. 'Wind comes softly'. Why does the poet want wind to come softly?

The poet wants wind to come softly. A strong wind is very destructive. It victimises the small and the weak. So, the poet desires it to come softly.

9. Explain the poet's attitude towards the wind.

The poet highlights the destructive as well as the constructive aspects of the wind. As a friend, the wind is very important in our life. As a destructive force, it teases and victimises the weaklings.

10. 'He makes strong fires roar and flourish'. Explain.

The poet explains how the wind helps the strong ones and teases the weaklings. A strong wind makes the strong fires roar and flourish. It becomes bigger and more powerful.

11. 'Practise to firm the body. Make the heart steadfast'. Explain.

The poet advises that while facing wind, one should have a strong heart and a strong physique. Wind is not friendly with weak characters. The weak fire is blown out, whereas the strong fire is ignited by wind.



Next Generation School