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Amends To Nature



Where do you live— in a city or a village? People who live in villages are very close to nature and understand the beauty and the magic power of nature. People living in cities have no time to admire nature. The boy in the poem, never thought about it but when he finds out its wonders, he comes to know about the beauty of nature and apologies for not watching it closely.

I have loved colours and not flowers
Their **motion**, and the swallow's wings;
And wasted more than half my hours
Without the **comradeship** of things.

How is it now and I can see,
With love and wonder and **delight**
The children of the **hedge** and tree.
The little lords of day and night?

How is it now that I see the roads
No longer with **usurping** eyes,
A **twilight** meeting place for toads
A mid-day market for butterflies?

I feel in every insect that hums
Life, **fugitive** and **infinite**
And suddenly the world becomes,
A part of me and I of it.

—Arthur Symons



Word-Web

- **amends** : make good, compensate
- **comradeship** : friendship, company
- **hedge** : bushes of small plants
- **twilight** : sunset, nightfall
- **infinite** : never-ending, very great
- **motion** : movement
- **delight** : great pleasure, joy
- **usurping** : take over, claiming as your property
- **fugitive** : one who escapes, runs away



Comprehension

Multi-Menu

Multiple Choice Questions

A. Tick the correct answers.

- Earlier, the poet remained unaware of the beauty of _____ .
(a) swallows (b) flowers (c) trees
- Now, the poet can see _____ with delight
(a) trees and saplings (b) the fence (c) flowers
- Now, the poet no longer looks at the roads with _____ .
(a) greedy eyes (b) indifferent eyes (c) possessive eyes
- Now, the poet sees life in every _____ .
(a) market (b) insect (c) butterfly

Pick and Fill

B. Fill in the blanks with correct words from the box.

hedge usurping twilight infinite fugitive

I was walking down the road at _____ when I saw a _____ cat escaping from the window of the kitchen. It sat under the green _____ with a smile of _____ satisfaction upon its brown face. The habit of cats of _____ all the milk in your kitchen as their personal menu items is one which never fails to surprise me.

C. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements.

- The poet loved colours before he began to love the objects of nature.
- The poet does not love hedges and saplings.
- The poet's perception of the road has not changed.
- Now the roads are the meeting places of toads at twilight.
- Earlier, the poet remained unaware of the beauty of nature.

» Matching-Mania

D. Match the words in Column A with correct words in Column B.

Column A

1. wings of •
2. comradeship of •
3. children of •
4. lords of •
5. market for •

Column B

- (a) day and night
- (b) butterflies
- (c) swallows
- (d) things
- (e) hedge and tree



» Question-Queue (Short)

E. Answer each question in a few words or a sentence.

1. Earlier, what did the poet love— flowers or colours?
2. How much time did he waste without friendship with nature?
3. Who are the children of hedge and tree?
4. Who are the lords of day and night?
- » 5. What is the time for the meeting of toads?

Question-Queue (Long)

F. Answer each question in one or two sentences.

1. What does the poet mean when he says that he has wasted half of his hours?
2. What is the comradeship of things according to the poet?
3. Who are the children of hedge and trees?
4. Why did the poet see the roads with 'usurping eyes'?
5. How has the poet's perception of the road changed?
6. Explain the last two lines of the poem in your own words.



Vocabulary

▶ Suffix-ship

Suffix is a group of letters which is added to the end of some words. After adding the suffix, some words are changed into abstract nouns.

For example : comrade + ship = comradeship friend + ship = friendship

► Now, add -ship to the following words and match them with their meanings.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---|-------|---|
| 1. hard + ship | = | _____ | (a) the state of being in charge or manager |
| 2. town + ship | = | _____ | (b) the state of being a member of an organization |
| 3. scholar + ship | = | _____ | (c) the state of owning something |
| 4. leader + ship | = | _____ | (d) a ship for use in war |
| 5. member + ship | = | _____ | (e) the fact of not having enough money, food |
| 6. owner + ship | = | _____ | (f) an area of urban settlements |
| 7. war + ship | = | _____ | (g) an amount of money given to a learner to help pay his/her studies |



Think-n-Thrive

Think why the world has become a part of the poet and the poet a part of the world. Is he now in love with nature? How?



Grammar-Grip

► **Articles**

An **Articles** is a kind of adjective which is always used before a noun. It gives some information about the noun.

There are two types of articles– definite articles and indefinite articles.

- 'The' is the **definite article** which is used before a specific noun, which is known to us or which has already been mentioned in a description.

For examples : 1. There was a lion. **The** lion lived in a dense forest.

2. **The** earth moves around **the** sun.

3. All birds go to their nests in **the** evening.

4. **The** Ramayan, **the** Quran and **the** Bible are all holy books.

5. **The** Taj Mahal and **the** Red Fort are historical buildings.

- The indefinite articles **a** and **an** are used before nouns when we talk about non-specific or general things/people or objects.

- We use **a** before the nouns which start with a consonant or give a consonant sound.

For example : a man, a boy, a table, a bird, a dog, a university, etc.

- We use **an** before the nouns which start with a vowel or give a vowel sound.

For example : an apple, an owl, an ox, an ibex, an hour, etc.

▶ **Now, fill in the blanks with the appropriate articles– a, an or the.**

1. My mother has _____ terrible headache.
2. Hari lives in _____ village. _____ village is very big.
3. She bought _____ new dress. _____ dress is very costly.
4. _____ Hawa Mahal is _____ historical building.
5. My aunt reads _____ Geeta daily in _____ morning.
6. _____ man wearing _____ yellow shirt is my uncle.
7. _____ stars shine in _____ night.
8. Let us meet after _____ hour in _____ playground.
9. A train has _____ engine and _____ guard.
10. My father reads _____ Hindustan Times in _____ morning.

▶ **Reading Skills**

Read the stanzas of a poem given below and answer the questions that follow.

I lay in sorrow, deep distressed,
My grief a proud man heard,
His looks were cold, he gave me gold,
But not a kindly word.

My sorrow passed– I paid him back,
The gold he gave to me,
Then stood erect and spoke my thanks
And blessed his charity.

1. Who heard the poet's grief?
2. How were the expressions on the man's face?
3. What did the man give to the poet?
4. The man said not a kindly word to the poet. Why?
5. What did the poet do when his sorrow had passed?

▶ **Fun to Arrange**

Arrange the following groups of words in correct order to form meaningful sentences.

Use capital letters and full stop where necessary.

1. birds/on trees/nests/make _____
2. sweets/children/to eat/love _____
3. crow/the /bird/is/a black _____
4. reads/father/my/ a newspaper _____
5. food/my/cooks/mother/delicious _____
6. a letter/writing/Rekha/is _____