

DON BOSCO SCHOOL, RANCHI

CLASS : 7

SUBJECT: ENGLISH II

BOOK : New Aster Advanced Textbook

CHAPTER-2: The Vagabond (R L Stevenson)



Robert
Louis
Stevenson

1850-1894



The Bodleian Library

Word meanings

1. Vagabond = a person who wanders from place to place without a home or job
2. Lave = flowing water
3. Jolly = happy
4. Byway = road or track not following a main route
5. Nigh = near
5. Blow = storm (here)
6. Linger = to stay in a place longer / spend a long time over something
7. Haven = shelter (here)

Message of the poem: -

The vagabond is happy in his carefree life and teaches us not to worry during hardships and keep moving on. Life is all about being happy so we should always be happy and joyful.

COMPREHENSION (pg. no-16)

A. Answer these questions

1. What does the speaker want from life? What are the three things he feels he can live without?

The speaker yearns for a free life with no limitations. He wants a life that he will love to live with flowing waters by the river side, the heavens above and the road beside to travel. He wants an outdoor bed where he can see the stars and get his daily bread. He feels he can live without wealth, friends, hope and love.

2. Pick out the lines from the poem which suggest that the speaker is not concerned about the weather.

“Not to autumn will I yield,

Not to winter even!” and

“Let the blow fall soon or late,

Let what will be o’er me;

These are the lines which suggest that the speaker is not concerned about the weather.

3. Describe the fields during the cold weather.

During the cold weather the fields are covered with snow and it appears as white meal.

4. How does the onset of the autumn season silence the bird on the tree?

As autumn changes to winter, the birds migrate to other places with better climatic condition. So, there is silence of the bird on the tree as they have migrated.

5. Is the speaker worried about death? Explain.

No, the speaker is not worried about death. As he is vagabond and has nothing to worry about. Even the harsh climate does not stop him from travelling. He feels even if the stormy days and night come early or late, he would always want to be out in the fields and the road beneath his feet.

6. Pick out expressions from the poem that suggest that the speaker is not concerned about worldly needs.

Wealth I seek not, hope nor love,

Nor a friend to know me;

These lines express that the speaker is not concerned about worldly needs. He says he does not need a friend; wealth and neither hope nor love.

B. Answer these following questions with reference to the context.

1. Or let autumn fall on me

Where afield I linger,

Silencing the birds on tree,

Biting the blue finger.

a) Why are the words 'autumn' and 'fall' used together?

These lines are taken from the poem 'The Vagabond' written by R L Stevenson, who was a nineteenth century Scottish novelist, essayist, poet and travel writer. The words autumn and fall are used together because autumn is the season with dropping of leaves from the trees as they go into a winter rest.

b) What does the word 'biting' signify?

'Biting' signifies the suffering and pain. It signifies the severe cold weather conditions when fingers start going blue due to frost bite.

c) Explain the 'blue finger'. How does this image describe the severity of the winter season?

The finger is blue because due to the exposure of extreme cold weather. This shows the unpleasant and pain the vagabond is going through while traveling outdoors. When one is exposed to cold temperature the blood supply to the finger is depleted and the skin colour turns blue.

2. White as meal the frosty field—

Warm the fireside haven—

Not to autumn will I yield,

Not to winter even!

a) Why is the field white in colour?

These lines are taken from the poem 'The Vagabond' written by R L Stevenson, who was a nineteenth century Scottish novelist, essayist poet and travel writer. The field is white in colour because it's winter and the field is covered with snow and it appears white.

b) Describe the 'frosty field'.

The poet creates an image of winter by 'frosty field', a field cold and frozen, turned into white colour and appears as white meal.

c) Explain the last two lines.

In the last two lines, the poet says that whether it's autumn or winter he would not hold but continue in his journey. Whatever the situation heat or cold, riches or no riches, a friend or none he continues to walk. All he needs is a sky over his head and a road to walk on.

Appreciation (pg no-17)

A. Identify the alliterative phrase in the poem.

Life I love Bed in the bush

Stars to see Man like me

Biting the blue Frosty field

B. Identify the alliterative phrases and personifications in these sentences.

1. The thunder grumbled and raindrops reported for duty.

Thunder- personification

Raindrops reported - alliteration

2. Fred had friendly fun with the family.

Fred had friendly fun with the family- alliteration

3. My alarm clock yelled at me in the morning.

Clock- personification

Me in the morning- alliteration

4. The full moon led me through the dark forest.

Moon led me - alliteration

5. Go gather green leaves in the garden.

Go gather green- alliteration

Learn about language

(pg no- 18)

A. Read these sentences and identify the stative verbs. Write the attribute in each case. One has been done for you.

1. I think we should go out and play now. (Related to thoughts)

2. This juice does not taste right. (Pertaining to the five senses)

3. Shweta always tastes food from my tiffin. (Pertaining to the five senses)

4. What do you think about this issue? (Related to thoughts)

5. They often see a film on Fridays. (Pertaining to the five senses)

6. His hard work was appreciated by one and all. (Related to thoughts)

7. She hates hypocrites. (Connect to feelings)

B. Underline the determiners in these sentences and state their kind. (Pg-20)

1. Many years ago when our grandmothers were little children---- there was a doctor.

Many- quantifier a- article

2. His name was John Dolittle and his sister was called Sarah.

His- possessive

3. His sister used to grumble about all animals that he kept in the house and say that they made the house untidy.

His- possessive all – distributive that- demonstrative the - article

4. They talk with their ears, with their feet, with their trails.

Their- possessive

5. Do you see now the way he's twitching up one side of his nose?

The – article his- possessive

6. But that man over the hill never even looked at my eyes.

That- demonstrative the – article my-possessive

C. Complete these sentences using suitable determiners. (pg-20)

1. I didn't use this fertilizer last spring.

2. All students wanted to go for the trip.

3. They say that knowledge is a dangerous thing.

4. My sister doesn't drink this coffee.

5. I am having little trouble passing my driving test.

6. Each student will write two essays.