

Worksheet

Subject: - English

Class: - IX

Teacher: - Mrs. Divya

Name: _____ Class & Sec: _____ Roll No. _____ Date: 09.04.2020

Read the poem carefully and then watch this video <https://youtu.be/Nml3FKuIRjc>

Wind

The wind blows strongly and causes a lot of damage.
How can we make friends with it?

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.
You're very clever at poking fun at weaklings.
Frail crumbling houses, crumbling doors, crumbling
crumbling wood, crumbling bodies, crumbling lives,
crumbling hearts —
the wind god winnows and crushes them all.
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.
Do this, and the wind will be friends with us.
The wind blows out weak fires.
He makes strong fires roar and flourish.
His friendship is good.
We praise him every day.

SUBRAMANIAM

[translated from the original]

A.K. RAMANUJAN

*Subramania Bharati (1882-1921) is a great Tamil poet known for his patriotism in the pre-Independence era.
A.K. Ramanujan is a Kannada and English poet, well known for his translation of classical and modern poetry.*

Thinking about the Poem**1. 1. What are the things the wind does in the first stanza?**

Answer: In the first stanza, the wind shatters the shutters of the windows, scatters the papers, throws down the books from the shelf, tears the pages of the books and brings showers of rain.

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

Answer: Yes, I have seen many women winnowing grain in villages. *Pachhorana* is the word in my language for winnowing. People use *chaaj* or winnowing fan for winnowing purpose.

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

Answer: The poet says that the wind god winnows the weak crumbling houses, doors, rafters, wood, bodies, lives and hearts, and then crushes them all.

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

Answer: To make friends with wind we need to build strong homes with firm doors. We should also make ourselves physically and mentally strong by building strong, firm bodies and having steadfast hearts.

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

Answer: 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?

Answer: The poet speaks to the wind with anger.

Yes, strong winds are known to cause plenty of damage and destruction to both life and property.

Storms, cyclones, gales and strong winds cause havoc on land. They uproot trees, bring down houses, tear down electric posts and claim lives.

They also cause damage to boats and frighten the poor sailors and fishermen out at sea.

Yet, I do not agree with the poet that the wind only ‘crumbles lives’. The wind is responsible for bringing rain; it cools the land and makes the climate pleasant.

Today, wind energy is harnessed for several useful purposes including turning windmills, wind turbines and generating electricity.

Rhyme scheme - The entire poem is written in free verse. There is no rhyme scheme in the poem.

The literary devices used are as follows –

i. Anaphora - When a word is repeated at the start of two or more consecutive lines, it is the device of Anaphora.

Lines 2, 3, 4 begin with 'don't'.

Lines 6, 7, 8 begin with 'you'.

ii. Personification – wind has been personified. When the poet says 'you are', he is referring to wind as 'you' that means he is treating wind as a person.

iii. Repetition - 'crumbling' is repeated many times to lay emphasis. The poet wants to say that the wind crushes everything that is weak. That is why he repeats the word crumbling.

iv. Alliteration - the repetition of a consonant sound in close connection. 'wind winnows'.
'won't want'

v. Symbolism - Symbolism means that the thing refers to some other thing. wind is a symbol. It refers to the challenges in life. He is using wind as a symbol for the adversities in our life.

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Anaphora

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