

**Learning outcomes**

- To discuss the knowledge of distant places and different times that books provide.
- To identify the poetic devices, especially the image of sailing to distant lands.
- To understand the contrast between body and mind.
- To contrast the reality of the present with the fantasy-world that books offer.

**Summary:** Books contain wonderful information about other parts of the world. As we read them or look at the pictures, we are carried away in our imagination to new lands with different people who give us new ideas about the world. We get so engrossed in the world of our books that we forget the room we are in as we become friends with a character in a storybook or enter a different space or time. We may be present physically in the chair but our mind is in the fantasy world created by the book. Each book is like a magic box a child opens to find everything they love to see in the world of their imagination.

**Pre-reading**

Generate a discussion with the following questions.

*What kind of books do you like to read? Why?*

*How do books help us to gain more knowledge?*

*Which do you like better— Story books or books about general knowledge? Why?*

**READING**

Play the poem on the screen, in parts. / Read the poem in parts. Pause to explain / discuss / check comprehension.

- *What worlds ... our eyes.*

Ask students

*Why does the speaker in the poem describe a book as a world of wonder? (A book creates a new imaginary world that fills us with wonder because it is different from our real life.) What happens to us when we begin to read a book? (We are transported to a different world that fills our imagination as if it were real and teaches us new ideas about different people and different ways of living.)*

- *The room...chosen friend.*

Ask students:

*How can our room melt away? (We are not aware of our surroundings as we live and*

*move in the world created by whatever we are reading.) Who is this chosen friend? (Our favourite character in the story with whom we identify and with whom we can relate)*

Discuss:

*Do we begin to feel what the characters feel, as we read? How does drifting into the story make the story more interesting?*

- *Or we sail...over there.*

Ask students:

*What does it mean to sail along a page? (It means that we travel in our imagination to another time or place.) Where is our mind while our body is in the chair? (Our mind is transported to the place or time created in the book we are enjoying at the time.)*

- *Each book...their lovers.*

*Why is a book compared to a magic box?*  
(Just as a magic box holds secret treasures for the one who unlocks it, a book holds unknown knowledge between its covers for the child who reads it.) *Which words of the lines rhyme in each stanza?* (The first with the second and the third with the fourth)

### Post-reading

- Let students bring their storybooks and share with their class.
- Let students talk about their favourite stories.

## STUDENTS' BOOK ANSWER KEY

### Books

#### Comprehension

- A.**
1. The speaker calls books 'worlds of wonder' because we find new people and new ideas when we read them.
  2. We find characters in books who can become our friends.
  3. When we read, we imagine we are in a different land or time. We do not leave our chair or the room we are in but we still imagine going to different places or ages.
  4. The speaker calls each book 'a magic box' because each book holds many things inside their covers. They contain new places and new people for readers.
- B.**
1. (suggested answer)  
While reading, we forget the room we are sitting in and imagine we are in the world of the book. This is why the speaker says that the room we are in 'melts away'.
  2. (free response)

#### Enjoying the poem

1. books and looks
2. rise and eyes
3. away and play
4. end and friend
5. page and age
6. chair and there

Other rhyming pairs include: box and locks; covers and lovers.

#### Vocabulary

1. wonder
2. ideas
3. imagination
4. fancies

#### Going Further

*Free response*

## QUESTION BANK

### Books

#### A. Answer the questions.

1. What happens when we open our books to read?

**Ans:** When we open our books to read, we are taken to new lands with different people who give us new ideas about the world.

2. What does the speaker mean by 'Here's our body in the chair, But our mind is over there.'

**Ans:** The speaker says that though our body is in our chair, our mind has travelled to a different world —the world created by the book.

#### B. Choose the right answer.

*The words 'sail along the page' mean*

- a. turn the pages carefully.
- b. sailing on the sea in a smooth manner.
- c. our thoughts move smoothly as we read.

**Ans:** c

#### C. Read the lines and answer the questions.

*In between their outside covers*

*Books hold all things for their lovers.*

- a. What does the book hold in between the covers?
- b. Who are these lovers?

**Ans:** Suggested answer: a. The book holds everything that a reader would love to know about.      b. These lovers are the ones who love to read books.