

Note: The transactional processes suggested in CISCE curriculum are highlighted in grey.

Learning Outcomes

- To relate to the imagination of the speaker
- To take note of and list the movement words
- To recognise the style (question–statement) of the poem
- To compare and contrast
- To identify the rhyme scheme

Summary

The poem talks about the speaker's longing to explore the beauty of nature by flying around. The first eight lines of the poem form questions while the next eight are statements.

The speaker begins by asking a few questions on the topic that seem to fascinate her. She wants to know that if she had a pair of wings would she opt for:

- a robin's wings so she could fly quickly across the sky.
- the wings of seagulls so she could glide smoothly over the seas or would she choose the wings of bees so she could move from flower to flower.

She then goes to say that

- she would dart across lakes and creeks if she had the wings of dragonflies.
- with the wings of an eagle, she would soar over mountain tops.
- she would fly away from view ever so quickly if she had the wings of butterflies.
- if she had the wings of a mosquito, she would perhaps flit about and bite.

Rhyme scheme: every second line rhymes

Repetition: wings

Alliteration: skim–sky; gulls–glide; buzz–busy–bees; with wings...

Students read to comprehend the poem

Play the audio track. / Read the poem aloud.
Explain the poem and question students to check comprehension.

- *If I could have...busy bees?*

Ask students (Let them refer to the Reader and answer)

What would the speaker do if she had:

- *a robin's wings?*
- *a sea gull's wings?*
- *the wings of bees?*

Let students identify the movement words and list them. let them refer to the glossary for the meanings of the words.

- *I could...and bite.*

Ask students (Let them refer to the Reader and answer)

How are these lines different from the previous set of lines? (these are not questions but are statements)

What would the speaker do if she had the wings of:

- *dragonflies?*
- *an eagle?*
- *butterflies*
- *a mosquito*

How is the last line different from the rest? (In the last line, the speaker wants to bite while in the rest of the poem, she talks about going around and exploring Mother Nature.)

Post-reading

Group work:

- Let students read and recite the poem in groups using appropriate actions and expressions.
- Let students work in groups of four and write two to four lines on what more they would do if they had the wings of the bees and butterflies. Allow free response. Let them not restrict it to only factual actions but use words of imagination like *sing around leaves, dance on flowers, jump over petals, flit and taste sweet honey, ...*

If I had the wings of bees, I would...

If I had the wings of butterflies, I would...

STUDENTS' BOOK ANSWER KEY

If I Could Have a Pair of Wings

Comprehension

- A.**
1. The speaker would skim across the sky if she had a pair of robin's wings.
 2. The speaker would use the wings of busy bees to move around the flowers.
 3. A butterfly flutters around.
A dragonfly darts around lakes and creeks. Darting is different from fluttering because it is sudden, takes place in a particular direction and has no flapping.
 4. The insects whose wings the speaker wants are the bees, the dragonflies, the butterflies and the mosquitoes.
- B.**
1. a. Gulls are birds with large wings.
Gulls live near the sea.
 - b. The speaker would also use the wings of dragonflies to be near water.
 2. a. To 'flutter out of sight' means to go away and disappear using a quick flapping movement.
 - b. The speaker would use the wings of a mosquito to flit about.
(Suggested answer, please accept any logical answer):
Lines that show that the poet

a. likes adventures	b. is humorous
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Would choose a pair of robin's wings And skim across the sky, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● But with mosquito wings, I guess, I'd flit about and bite
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Or with a pair of eagle's wings Soar over mountain peaks, 	

Appreciating the poem

Bird/Insect	Movement	Place
robin	skim	through the sky
gulls	<u>glide</u>	over the seas
<u>bees</u>	buzz	around the flowers
dragonfly	<u>dart</u>	<u>over lakes and creeks</u>
eagle	<u>soar</u>	<u>over mountain peaks</u>

Vocabulary

1. The breeze made the curtains flutter.
2. The rocket soared into the air, high above us.
3. The paper plane flew low and skimmed over the pond.
4. The skiers glided down the slope smoothly.
5. The hummingbird flitted from flower to flower.
6. Hearing the bell ring, Suhana darted back to class.

QUESTION BANK

If I Could Have a Pair of Wings

A. Answer the questions.

1. What would the speaker do if she had the wings of a gull?

Ans. If the speaker had the wings of a gull, she would glide across the seas.

2. What would the speaker do if she had the wings of an eagle?

Ans. If the speaker had the wings of an eagle, she would soar over mountain peaks.

3. Which pair of wings that the speaker wants, would trouble people and how?

Ans. The wings of a mosquito would carry the speaker to people where she would flit about and bite.

B. Choose the right answer.

The wings that would take the speaker to the flowers are that of a

- a. mosquito.
- b. butterfly.
- c. bee.

Ans. c