

Learning Outcomes

- To recognise the concept of personification
- To relate to the experience
- To infer that one experiences comfort when one with Nature

Summary

The speaker talks about the love and peace that can come from interacting with nature.

She likes to go and lie underneath a specific tree and look up at the sky which appears to be smiling protectively at her.

While she is lying under the tree, the gentle light of the sun passing through the network of leaves falls on her face. It feels as though she is being kissed, reminding her of her mother's loving goodnight kisses.

The speaker feels the wind as it blows softly over the grass. It seems to be whispering as it passes by.

Everywhere around her there is nature in its varied forms ready to comfort her if she needs it. She says that a child can never feel fear when there is so much comfort around.

Rhyme scheme: abab cdcd...

Personification: Elements of nature have been given human traits

Simile: The sky is compared to a kind smile; sunlight on the face is compared to Mother's kisses

Pre-reading

Generate a discussion on:

- What do you like about the sky, sunshine and wind?

- Give three words to describe each of these elements of nature.

READING

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

- *How good... before bed.*

The speaker begins by saying that it feels good to lie under the tree and look up

through the tree at the sky. She says 'the' tree and not 'a' tree. This could imply that she is referring to a specific tree.

In the next two lines she talks lovingly about the sky. It is personified and compared to a protective human who smiles down at her as if to comfort her.

The sunlight that travels through the network of leaves falls on her face. By using the word 'lace', the speaker helps the reader visualise the beautiful scene. It speaks of the lacy patterns that one would see while lying under a tree. The gentle light on her face reminds her of her mother's kisses.

Ask students:

What does the speaker say about the sky? From where does she see the sky? What 'lace' is the speaker talking about? How does she feel about the light on her face? What is the sky compared to?

- *The Wind...he may be.*

The speaker talks about the wind. While it passes through the grass, it makes a soft sound that feels as if it is whispering something to her. The wind is speaking to her, telling her "pretty things."

The wind is personified/given human traits in the next two lines. 'He' comes quietly and moves away with the same grace.

The speaker ends the poem by describing the Sky, Sunshine and Wind as being 'gentle Friends.' The fact that the sky, sun, and wind are forever present in one's world means that 'a child should never feel a fear' as they are always around to give them comfort.

Ask students:

What does the speaker say about the wind? How has the wind been given human traits (referred to as He and whispers while he passes) What are the three elements of nature that are being spoken about? How does the speaker feel when these are around? (safe and comfortable) List the rhyming words in the poem.

Post-reading

Let students work in groups and make a collage with *Nature* as the theme.

STUDENTS' BOOK ANSWER KEY

Friends (Poem)

Comprehension

- A.**
1. The speaker likes to spend her free time lying down and looking up at the sky through the trees.
 2. When she lies down under the tree, the speaker feels the warmth of the Sunshine on her face.
 3. The Wind comes quietly over the grass and passes by the speaker, when she lies on the grass. The speaker knows the Wind is there because she can feel the breeze as it passes by.
 4. The speaker feels that a child should never be afraid because there are many gentle Friends nearby, even if we cannot always see them.
- B.**
1. a. The speaker is lying under a tree when she says these lines.
b. The speaker compares the Sunshine to her mother because the feeling of the Sunshine on her face feels like her mother kissing her face before bed.
 2. a. The speaker refers to the Wind as 'him'.
b. The speaker means the feeling of the breeze on her skin when she says 'his careful wings'. No, they are not real wings.

- C.** 1. The speaker calls the Sunshine, the Wind and the Sky 'Friends' in the poem. These Friends are different from the friends we have in school or our neighbourhood because we cannot see or talk to them. We can only feel their presence. For example, we feel the Sunshine on our face.
2. The gentle presence of these Friends reminds the speaker that she is not alone, wherever she may be. This makes the speaker feel safe.

Appreciating the Poem

A.

What	Compared to	Why
the sky	<u>a kind big smile</u>	it is bright and the speaker enjoys looking at it
<u>the leaves of the tree</u>	lace	there are gaps in the leaves through which the sunlight shines
the sunshine	the speaker's mother	<u>the Sunshine falls warmly on her face</u>

- B.** 1. pretty
2. careful
3. gentle

Vocabulary

(Suggested answers, please accept any grammatically correct answer)

1. flickers: The candle light flickers in the wind.
2. lace: My new dress is made of blue lace.
3. wings: The bird flapped its wings before flying off.
4. gentle: The class teacher was very gentle with her students.
5. scarcely: We have scarcely seen Reya since she moved away.

QUESTION BANK

Friends (Poem)

A. Answer the questions.

1. How does the speaker describe the gentle sunlight while she is lying under the tree?

Ans. While she is lying under the tree, the gentle and warm light of the sun passing through the network of leaves falls on her face. It feels as though she is being kissed, reminding her of her mother's loving goodnight kisses.

2. How do we know that the speaker is enjoying the outdoors under the tree? (*Friends*)

Ans. The speaker says that it is good to lie under the tree and look up at the sky which is smiling at her. She feels like she is being kissed when the sunlight falls on her face. She feels the gentle breeze while it passes by and says that she feels safe while being out enjoying nature.

B. Read the lines and answer the questions.

*So many gentle Friends are near
Whom one can scarcely see,
A child should never feel a fear,
wherever be may be.*

- a. Where is the speaker?
- b. What is the speaker talking about?
- c. Identify the rhyming words.

Ans. a. The speaker is lying under a tree.

- b. The speaker is talking about nature and the joy one feels while being outdoors. She says that a child can never feel fear when there is so much comfort around.
- c. The rhyming words are *near– fear; see – be*