

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

Learning Outcomes

- To infer that art has not been able to capture the true essence of Nature
- To activate the sense of sight and sound from Nature imagery
- To note skillful use of vocabulary to build up images of Nature
- To note the technique and poetic devices used

Summary: The poet finds nature in the hills and in the animals, in fact all around. However, she thinks that there is no efficient way to express the serenity and simplicity of nature; there is no art form that has captured the true essence of Nature. Nature is so beautiful, yet so simple that no one has been able to express nature in any form.

Pre-reading

Group work

Ask students:

- What is your favourite place in nature?
Why? (The seaside, hills /mountains, garden/park, waterfall, forest...)

Let each student answer the question and share with the group.

Now ask groups to share with the class what they like about these places and why.

READING

Predict, Anticipate

Write the title on the board

- What do you think the poem is about?

Elicit answers from the class

- Display the picture from the Smart Book.

Allow students to continue speculation and predictions about the theme of the poem. (Write students' answers on the board.)

Play the audio track for the poem / Read the poem aloud once.

Now let students read the poem in parts. Stop at intervals to check comprehension. Allow students time to scan for details before they answer. Guide / prompt them if required.

Tell students that we are going to interpret the poem with CLAP

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Content | Language |
| Atmosphere | Poetic Techniques |

Divide students into groups and tell them to read the poem aloud and discuss the concept.

Content

Students discuss and answer the questions in groups. Ask students:

What do you now think is the poem about?

What is the setting of this poem?

Who is the narrator of the poem?

What is the tone of the poem?

What message does the poem convey?

Ask students:

Where does the poet find Nature? (She finds nature everywhere, even in the hills and in the animals.) *Why does she say that 'Nature is Heaven'?* (We see the beautiful simplicity of nature which is likened to Heaven, a place of utmost beauty.) *What sense is evoked in the reader in the first four lines?* (The sense of sight) *What sense does the poet shift to in the next four lines?* (The sense of sound) *What sounds bring out the beauty of Nature?* (Birds, the sea, thunder and even the tiny sound of the cricket chirping) *What do the last four lines convey?* (Nature's importance to our mental well being) *Can art duplicate Nature?* (Art in various forms has tried to duplicate Nature, but has never been able to do so. Several artists have caught only a fragment of the true beauty and value of Nature. Nature is something very special, yet to be captured by artists.) *What do the last four lines mean?* (The poet feels that there is no efficient way to express the serenity and simplicity of nature, in fact there is no art form that would help us to express nature in any form.)

Discuss answers

Language

- List the fascinating words in the poem or words that evoke the senses in the poem.
- Diction: simple (Descriptive imagery words to express what we see and what we hear)

Atmosphere

- *Why does the poet use several punctuation marks and dashes in the poem?* (It helps the readers to understand the flow of emotions and expressions in the poem. The dashes are the pauses, which helps the readers to understand the highs and lows in the poem.)

Poetic Techniques

List out:

- Imagery: Sight: paints a picture of the squirrel, the hill, the bumblebee, etc.
Sound: bobolink, sea, thunder, cricket
- Personification: *Nature is what we know... our Wisdom is to her Simplicity.* This implies that Nature is feminine
- Metaphor: *Nature is Harmony*
- Rhyming words: *see, bee, sea, harmony, simplicity*
- Rhyme scheme: There is a definite rhyme scheme in the first four lines in this poem, which is *a b a c*.

What technique does the poet use in the poem? (The poet first likens nature to the things we see around us, then to more lofty things and finally to the things of utmost beauty, that is Heaven, Harmony.)

What does the poet want us to understand? (That the universe is beautiful and magnificent)

Post-reading

Pair Work

Tell students to recollect the pre-reading task question:

What is your favourite place in nature? Why?

Form groups with the criteria being that all students with the same 'favourite place in nature' will form a group.

Tell students to depict their favourite place in nature on charts in the form of drawings or a collage. (Provide the required stationary)

STUDENTS' BOOK ANSWER KEY

Nature is What We See

Comprehension

- A.** 1. a. hill, afternoon, squirrel, eclipse, bumble bee b. *Free response* c. heaven
2. a. bobolink, sea, thunder, cricket b. *Free response* c. harmony
3. a. we don't have the skill to say it b. *Free response* c. simple
- B.** 1. a. in fact
b. 'Nay' has also been used in the 8th line 'Nay—Nature is Harmony'. Nature has been described as Harmony there.
2. a. *Suggested answer (accept any logical answer):* Our wisdom is 'impotent' because no matter how intelligent or skilful we are, we cannot describe Nature exactly as it is. Even if we have an idea of it, we cannot capture all the beauty and simplicity of Nature in words.
b. *Free response* c. *Free response*
- C.** *Suggested answers (accept any logical answer):*
a. Yes, as it tries to describe different things that can be seen and heard in Nature.
b. Yes. Many other poems, paintings and pieces of music are created on the theme of Nature or some element of nature, like trees, the sea or mountains. Those works also try to express in different ways how simple and/or beautiful Nature is.

Appreciating the Poem

1. *Suggested answers (accept any logical answer):*
a. "Nature" is what we see—"Nature" is what we see:) and 'Nature is what we hear—' (Nature is what we hear:)
b. 'The Hill—the Afternoon— / Squirrel—Eclipse—the Bumble bee' (The Hill, the Afternoon, Squirrel, Eclipse, the Bumblebee) and 'The Bobolink—the Sea—/Thunder—the Cricket (The Bobolink, the Sea, Thunder, the Cricket) and 'Nature is what we know—/ Yet' (Nature is what we know, Yet...)
c. 'Nature is Heaven—' (Nature is Heaven.) and 'Nature is Harmony—' (Nature is Harmony.) and 'Yet have no art to say—' (Yet have no art to say.)
2. a. Hill, Afternoon, Squirrel, Eclipse, Sea, Thunder, Cricket, Our Wisdom, Simplicity
b. *Suggested answer (accept any logical answer):* The names of natural things and creatures have been capitalised to draw attention to them individually, to make them prominent symbols of Nature. Our wisdom and Nature's Simplicity have been capitalised to give those ideas importance—almost as if they are individual characters.

Vocabulary

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|----------------|------------|
| 1. a. art | b. art |
| 2. a. crickets | b. cricket |
| 3. a. eclipse | b. eclipse |
| 4. a. harmony | b. harmony |
| 5. a. Nature | b. nature |

Going Further

Free response

QUESTION BANK

Nature is What We See

A. Answer in brief.

1. Where does the poet find Nature?

Ans: She finds nature in the hills, the afternoon, the squirrels, the eclipse, and the bumble bees. In fact she finds nature everywhere.

2. What sounds bring out the beauty of Nature?

Ans: The delicate sound of birds and crickets chirping, and the roaring sound of the sea, and thunder.

B. Answer in brief. (Think and Answer)

1. Why does the poet say that 'Nature is Heaven'?

Ans: We see the beautiful simplicity of nature which is likened to Heaven, a place of utmost beauty and serenity.

2. What does the poet mean when she says that 'Nature is Harmony'?

Ans: Harmony means the combination of simultaneously sounded musical notes to produce a pleasing effect. When the poet calls nature harmony, she indicates that the varied sounds of living creatures and sounds from nature all combine to form a beautiful harmony.

C. Choose the correct answer.

The main idea conveyed through the poem is _____.

- a. about the serenity and simplicity of nature
- b. that there is harmony among all living things in nature
- c. that no art form can truly express nature

Ans: c