

The School Boy

Working with the poem (Page 84)

Question 1:

Find three or four words/phrases in stanza 1 that reflect the child's happiness and joy.

Answer:

The words or phrases in stanza 1 that reflect the child's happiness and joy are “love to rise in a summer morn”, “birds sing on every tree”, “distant huntsman winds his horn”, “the skylark sings with me” and “sweet company”.

Question 2:

In stanza 2, the mood changes. Which words/phrases reflect the changed mood?

Answer:

The words or phrases reflect the changed mood are “it drives all joy away”, “a cruel eye outworn” and “in sighing and dismay”.

Question 3:

‘A cruel eye outworn’ (stanza 2) refers to

- (i) the classroom which is shabby/noisy.
 - (ii) the lessons which are difficult/uninteresting.
 - (iii) the dull/uninspiring life at school with lots of work and no play.
- Mark the answer that you consider right.

Answer:

(iii) the dull/uninspiring life at school with lots of work and no play.

Question 4:

‘Nor sit in learning’s bower
worn thro’ with the dreary shower’

Which of the following is a close paraphrase of the lines above?

- (i) Nor can I sit in a roofless classroom when it is raining.
- (ii) Nor can I learn anything at school though teachers go on lecturing and explaining.
- (iii) Nor can I sit in the school garden for fear of getting wet in the rain.

Answer:

(ii) Nor can I learn anything at school though teachers go on lecturing and explaining.