

## BEAUTY

### Working with the Poem

**Question 1.** The poet says, “Beauty is heard in ...”  
Can you hear beauty? Add a sound that you think is beautiful to the sounds the poet thinks are beautiful.

The poet, Keats, said:  
Heard melodies are sweet,  
But those unheard are sweeter.

What do you think this means? Have you ever ‘heard’ a song in your head, long after the song was sung or played?

**Answer:** We do hear beautiful sounds. For instance, when a guitarist plays a guitar, when a cuckoo sings, when the rain drops fall on the ground, when a soft breeze flows, etc.

“Heard melodies are sweet,  
But those unheard are sweeter.”

This means that our imagination can succeed and be more beautiful than the reality. Heard melodies are the ones which are actually being played around. But the unheard are the ones that our mind plays in our heart, and such sound is sweeter and closer to our heart.

Yes, I have heard songs in my head, long after the song was sung or played. Those are my most favourite songs.

**Question 2.** Read the first and second stanzas of the poem again. Note the following phrases.

corn growing, people working or dancing, wind sighing, rain falling, a singer chanting

These could be written as

- corn that is growing
- people who are working or dancing

Can you rewrite the other phrases like this? Why do you think the poet uses the shorter phrases?

**Answer:** Here are some more examples of such short phrases: stream flowing, wind blowing, children laughing, mob shouting, etc.

I think the poet uses the shorter phrases to give a musical rhythm to the poetic lines.

**Question 3.** Find pictures of beautiful things you have seen or heard of.

**Answer:** Do it yourself.

**Question 4.** Write a paragraph about beauty. Use your own ideas along with the ideas in the poem. (You may discuss your ideas with your partner.)

**Answer:** “Beauty lies in the eyes of the beholder.”

The statement is true to its core. Beauty is how you perceive it. Everything in nature is beautiful. Every insect, tree, plant, human, mountain, river, rain, soil – all of them are beautiful in their own ways. It depends on the person who sees it, whether he/she considers it to have beauty or not.

