

On the Grasshopper and Cricket

Introduction

It is not a story-poem. Grasshopper is a symbol of hot summer. Cricket is a symbol of very cold winter. Every poet has found great beauty and poetry in spring and fine weather. Keats is different. He finds nature beautiful in all seasons not excluding the hot summer and cold winter.

Hot Summer

The earth is always singing. The birds stop singing in the hot summer. They seem to have fainted in the hot sun. They hide themselves in cooling trees. At that time a grasshopper can be seen flying from hedge and singing delightfully. He sings tirelessly. When tired, he rests beneath some weed.

Cold Winter

The birds are silent in very cold winter too. Then, the earth expresses its pleasure through different beings. On a frosty winter day, there seems to be utter silence. Then suddenly this silence is broken not from the trees but from the stones. It is the song of a cricket. The song seems to be increasing in warmth every moment. The people hear it in their houses. To someone half-asleep, it may seem to be a grasshopper's song coming from grassy hills.