

Firefly in My Room

- Children, you must be scared of insects?
- Is there anyone who is not?
- Do you know there is an insect which will not scare you?

Which is it? Let's read about it.

Last night, as I lay sleepless
In the summer dark
With window open to invite a breeze,
Softly a firefly flew in
And circled round the room
Twinkling at me from floor or wall
Or ceiling, never long in one place,
But lighting up little spaces....
A friendly presence, dispelling
The settled gloom of an unhappy day.
And after it had gone, I left
The window open, just in case
It should return.

~ Ruskin Bond

Glossary

firefly	: a flying insect with a tail that shines in the dark; जुगनू
sleepless	: without sleep बिना नींद आए
breeze	: a light wind; मंद हवा
softly	: gently; हल्के से
circle	: to move in a circle, especially in the air; गोल-गोल घूमना
twinkle	: to shine with a light that keeps changing from bright to faint; टिमटिमाना
ceiling	: the top inside surface of a room छत (नीचे से)
friendly presence	: here for the firefly who appears friendly towards the poet; जुगनू की मित्रवत उपस्थिति
dispel	: to make a feeling or belief go away or disappear; दूर करना
gloom	: a feeling of sadness; निराशा

Activity – I

A. State whether the following statements are true or false.

1. The firefly came into the room through the door. ()
2. The firefly sat on the ceiling of the room for a long time. ()

3. The boy was sleeping when the firefly came into the room. ()

B. Answer the following questions.

1. Why did the boy leave the window of his room open at night?
2. How did the firefly light up little spaces?
3. Why did the boy call the firefly 'a friendly presence'?
4. How can you say that the boy did not want the firefly to leave his room?

Activity – II

Fill in the blanks choosing appropriate words from the box.

sleepless softly ceiling breeze dispel

1. My uncle is so tall that he can touch the
2. Everyone likes cool in summer season.
3. Grandma told us an inspiring story to our fear of darkness.
4. As there were so many mosquitoes in the room, I had a night.

Activity – III

Suppose this firefly can speak like us. Imagine if it enters your room when you are about to sleep, what will you ask it and how would it respond? Write a possible dialogue between you and the firefly in about 5-6 sentences.

