

1.3 The pilgrim

Warming up:-

1. Make groups and discuss the following:

(a) What fatal dangers / problems did mankind face centuries ago, but are no longer a threat today?

Ans:- wild animals - lack of food - certain diseases - climate etc.

(b) Name a few scientists/explorers social reformers/inventors/discoverers, who spent most of their lives to find solutions to some major problems/setbacks, that mankind faced.

Ans:- Alexander Fleming, Edison, Ronald Ross, Christopher Columbus, Wright brothers, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Galileo, Marie Curie, Savitribai Phule, Babasaheb Ambedkar, etc.

(c) Did they themselves suffer from those problems / setbacks?

Ans:- most did not

(d) What inspired them to spend the best part of their lives to research and share their findings?

Ans:- a passion for well-being of mankind - personal goals and aims - interest in the subject - curiosity - the urge to improve society and help others - etc.

2. Read and understand the following poetic devices.

(A) If two or more words in the same line convey the same meaning, the Figure of Speech in that line is called *Tautology*.

For example: (1) It brought joy and cheer

(2) They groaned with aches and pains.

(B) Poets often change the proper grammatical order of words in the line of a poem, in order to make the lines rhyme or to emphasize upon something. The Figure of Speech in such lines is called '*Inversion*' or '*Anastrophe*'.

For example: (1) Up came the sun.

(2) Down the hill, it flowed.

(C) When a question is asked in order to create a dramatic effect and not to get an answer, in a line of the poem, the Figure of Speech used is called *Interrogation* / *Rhetorical Questions*:

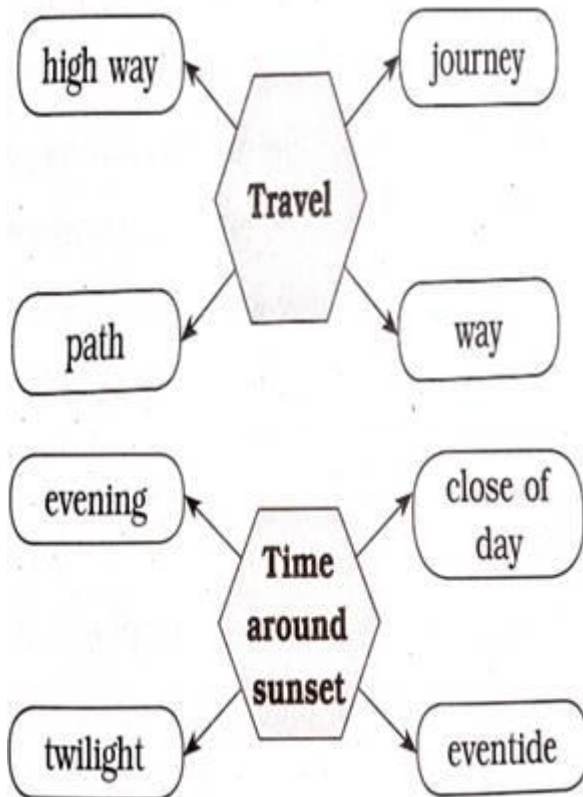
For example: (1) what is this life, if full of care?

(2) When can their glory fade?

English Workshop:-

1. Pick out words from the poem to fill in the web diagram. They should be related to the theme in the web.

Ans.



2. The entire poem is metaphorical (Implied comparison).

Match the words in Column A with what they imply in Column B.

A	B
(1) pilgrim	(1) threat to life
(2) journey	(2) trap
(3) evening or close of day	(3) life
(4) chasm, deep and wide	(4) death
(5) building a bridge	(5) old age
(6) pitfall	(6) a dutiful man
(7) close of day	(7) solving the problem/getting rid of threat to life

Ans:- (1) pilgrim:- a dutiful man.

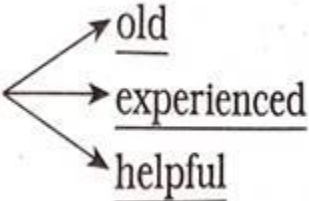
(2) journey:- life.

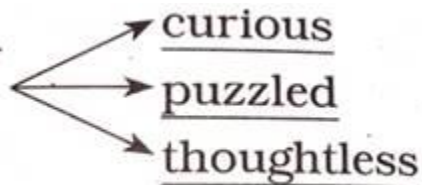
(3) evening or close of day:- old age.

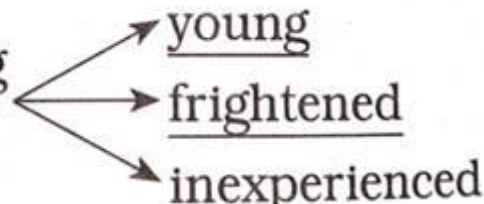
(4) chasm, deep and wide:- threat to life.

- (5) building a bridge:- solving a problem /getting rid of a threat to life.
(6) pitfall:- trap.
(7) close of day:- death.

3. (A) Read the poem and write 3 qualities of each of the following.
Ans.

(1) The old pilgrim : 

(2) The fellow pilgrim : 

(3) The young pilgrim : 

(B) Answer in your own words.

(1) Why did the old man have no need to build the bridge, across the chasm?

Ans:- The old pilgrim had already crossed the chasm and would never pass that way again. Hence, the old man had no need to build the bridge across the chasm.

(2) What explanation did he give to the fellow- pilgrim for his thoughtful deed?

Ans:- The old man said that though he had already crossed the chasm, there was a fair-haired youth who was about to pass that way. The old man was experienced and was not afraid of the chasm. However, the young man was inexperienced and the chasm could prove to be a pitfall for him.

(3) What message does the poem convey to all of us?

Ans:- The message that the poem conveys to us is that we must be generous and unselfish and think of others. We must try to help others who are not as experienced as we are.

4. (A) Note the rhyming words in the first stanza.

(way - gray/ wide-side- tide / dim -him)

Poet has used a deliberate pattern of lines that rhyme with other lines in the poem the stanza. This pattern can be identified by giving the rhyming pairs of words the same letter of the alphabet.

For example: 1st stanza of this poem has the pattern AABCCBB

So, AABCCBB is called the Rhyme Scheme of the 1st stanza of the poem 'The Pilgrim'.

(B) Now write the Rhyme Scheme of the 2nd stanza.....and 3rd stanza.....

Ans:- (1) the 2nd stanza :- ddaabb.

(2) the 3rd stanza:- eeaaffcc

(C) Find two lines that contain Inversion.

Ans:- (1) Came at evening, cold and gray, To a chasm, deep and vast and wide.

(The correct prose order is : Came on a cold and gray evening to a deep and wide and vast chasm.)

(2) To the fair-haired youth, may a pitfall be.

(The correct prose order is: To the fair-haired youth, it may be a pitfall.)

Pick out one line each that contains the following Figures of Speech.

(A) Tautology

(B) Personification

(C) Interrogation

Ans:-

(1) Tautology:- To a chasm, deep and vast and wide.

The words vast and wide have similar meaning.

(2) Personification:- A pilgrim, going a lone highway.

The highway is given the human quality of being lonely.

(3) Interrogation:- Why waste your time in building here?

A question is asked to emphasize an idea.

5. Imagine that you are the fellow - pilgrim and you wish to share your experience of the incident in the poem. Write a short article about it for a magazine /journal. Also convey what change it has brought in your life.

Ans:-

THE TURNING POINT

There are certain incidents in one's life. which have an impact on a person and prove to be a turning point in their lives. Let me narrate the incident which shook me awake.

I was on a hike in some hilly places when I had to cross a deep ravine which had a gushing river flowing through it. I managed to cross without any difficulty; to my surprise, an old man ahead of me also crossed it nimbly. As I was about to continue on my way, I saw the old man turn back and build a rough bridge across the water. It took a lot of effort and I stood by wondering. Finally, I asked him, "Sir, it is late evening and you are not likely to cross this way again. Why are you building a bridge now?"

The old man's answer floored me. "You confused child," he said with a smile. "I have completed my journey - true. But behind me is a young boy who is inexperienced. He will

soon reach this chasm, and he may have difficulty in crossing it. I am building this bridge to help him."

I stood still, amazed at the generosity and unselfishness of the old man, who was putting in time and effort to help someone he did not even know. He was building a bridge that he would never ever cross.

This incident left an indelible mark on my mind. Since that time, I always try to help others even though it may not be beneficial to me in any way. However, it gives me something immeasurable - peace and happiness.

Try it out, won't you?

(indelible - permanent; unfading).