

Chapter 3: The Brook

ENGLISH WORKSHOP [PAGE 70]

English workshop | Q 1 | Page 70

Read the poem aloud with proper pace and rhythm.

SOLUTION

Students can do it on your own.

English workshop | Q 2 | Page 70

Find the meaning of the following words or phrases :

- ridges
- brimming
- eddying
- babble
- fallow
- trout
- netted

SOLUTION

- ridges: **a long, narrow mountain range**
- brimming: **be full to the point of overflowing**
- eddying: **move in a circular way.**
- babble: **to make murmuring sound of water flowing over stones**
- fallow: **uncultivated land**
- trout:
- netted:

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Answer the following:

Who is the speaker in this poem?

SOLUTION

The brook is the speaker in this poem.

English workshop | Q 3. (2) | Page 70

Answer the following:

Which lines are repeated in the poem? What do they mean?

SOLUTION

The lines 'For men may come and men may go, But I go on forever' are repeated. They mean that nature is immortal whereas we are mortal. Men are born and will die but nature is eternal.

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Answer the following:

Where does the brook join the river?

SOLUTION

The brook joins the river near Philip's farm.

English workshop | Q 3. (4) | Page 70

Answer the following:

Mention the various places that the brook flows past.

SOLUTION

The brook flows past the dwellings of coot and hern, the ferns, a town, twenty thorpes, a valley, hills, ridges, several bridges, and Philip's farm.

English workshop | Q 3. (5) | Page 70

Answer the following:

Often the brook speaks of itself as if it is human.

For example,

'I bicker down a valley.'

Find two other examples of the human activities of the brook.

SOLUTION

- a. I slip, I slide, I gloom, I glance.
- b. By thirty hills I hurry down.

English workshop | Q 6 | Page 70

List the phrases which have the expression 'many a_____ '.

SOLUTION

many a curve, many a fairy foreland, many a silvery waterbreak.

English workshop | Q 7 | Page 70

The poet uses words to create pictures or 'images' in the reader's mind. For example, 'And sparkle out among the fern.' Write down other lines that create images or pictures in your mind. (Any 3)

SOLUTION

- a. By twenty thorpes,
- b. a little town An half a hundred bridges.
- c. By thirty hills I hurry down.
- d. I make the netted sunbeam dance
- e. Against my sandy shallows.

English workshop | Q 8 | Page 70

Write a short autobiography of a brook.

SOLUTION

The Brook

The mountain is my father and the glacier is my mother. I am born in the lap of slopy, snowy terrain. Yes, you guessed it right. I am Miss Rill, the bubbly, ever-youthful, brook. I start my journey from the slopes of the mighty mountains. Many of my brothers and sisters join me making me look fatter. I express my happiness by dancing and jumping as I come down the valley.

I am ever so glad to help birds and animals by quenching their thirst. The trees in the valley are so grateful to me that they honour me by showering flowers upon me. My graceful flow is adored my many frogs and fishes who take a dip in my waters.

As I reach the plains, I slow down. The calm within and outside inspires many great poets to offer their literary best. I am obstructed by many boulders but I do not stop. I find my way by curving around them.

By the time I meet the big river, many small rivulets have joined me. But today their number is decreasing. I heard some men saying that the rains are decreasing each year. If this goes on, I might get thinner and thinner and die one day. I have served mankind for as long as I know. I beg of you to save me and my sisters and brothers. Please plant more trees, do not harm nature; as we are your well-wishers.

Preserve me to let your coming generation experience me by taking a dip in my pure waters.

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Which other things in nature can say - 'For men may come and men may go, But I go on forever.'

SOLUTION

The sun, stars, clouds, moon, wind, space are things in nature that can say the given lines.

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Use the internet, your school library, or other sources for the following activities.

1. Try to find other nature poems.
2. Draw or collect landscapes that can be used as illustrations for this poem.

SOLUTION

Trees

I think that I shall never see
A poem is lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest Against the sweet earth's flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain; Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

- Joyce Kilmer

2. students can do it on your own.