

Supplementary Reader

Lesson-6

To the Cuckoo

Q 1. Why do you think the poet could not see the bird?

Ans The poet could not see the bird because it could either be hidden or the bird existed only in the poet's imagination.

Q 2. Why did the poet call the Cuckoo 'newcomer'?

Ans The poet called the cuckoo a 'newcomer' because the poet had been lying on the grass for a long time when the cuckoo arrived.

Q 3. Why was the song of the bird heard "At once for off and near"?

Ans The song of the bird was both far off and near as it was echoed from a distant hill.

Q 4. What are the words or phrases which tell you that the poet had listened to the cuckoo's song many times earlier?

Ans 'I have heard,/I hear thee and rejoice'

'Thy twofold shout I hear'

'babbling' 'A voice, a mystery;

The same whom in my schoolboy days I listen'd to'

Q 5. What do you understand by 'babbling'? Why did the poet describe the bird's song thus?

Ans Babbling means the continuous murmuring sound of flowing water. The poet described the bird's song thus because the song echoed from the distant hill and at times it seems that it comes from far off and sometimes from near.

Q 6. What do you understand by 'wandering voice'?

Ans Wandering voice means the voice which is not coming from fix source or destination.

Q 7. Why do you think the bird was a mystery to the poet?

Ans The bird was a mystery to the poet because he could only hear the bird's voice and was not able to see the bird.

Q 8. The poem has been written in the form of an ode. An ode is a poem of praise and may be an address to someone or something or even a time of the day. Make a list of all the terms that the poet uses to address the bird.

Ans blithe newcomer, bird, wandering voice, dancing to the spring, an invisible thing, a voice, a mystery, a hope, a love still longed for, never seen, blessed

Q 9. By 'twofold shout', the poet meant:

Ans (d) the call echoes from the hills.

Q 10. Do you think that this poem is a description of a bird or only its voice and song. What makes you think so?

Ans This poem is both a description of a bird as well as its voice and song because the poet has described the voice and song of the bird as a wandering voice, babbling. He addressed the cuckoo using the words like mystery, darling of the spring, O Blithe newcomer, blessed bird etc