



Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind (poem)

William Shakespeare

After completing this lesson, students will be able to:

- read with accurate pronunciation, appropriate pitch and voice variation suitable for fictional and nonfictional texts
- demonstrate attentive listening skills while working in groups and taking turns to speak with standard pronunciation
- demonstrate knowledge and application of parts of speech in oral and written communication in varying understand and identify figures of speech
- punctuate given lines
- use phrasal verbs in sentences
- evaluate how authors use language, including figurative language, considering the impact on the reader .Discuss others' reading critically, taking account of their views
- use summary skills to write an objective summary of the given text and poem
- use paraphrasing skills to paraphrase a poem
- ask and answer higher-order questions to guide/assess reading

Pre-Reading

- Relate any incident when someone got a frost bite while playing in snow?
- Guess what the poem is about from its title?

Reading**Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind**

Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude;
Thy tooth is not so keen,
Because thou art not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.
Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the green holly:
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly:
Then heigh-ho, the holly!

This life is most jolly.
Freeze, freeze thou bitter sky,
That does not bite so nigh
As benefits forgot:
Though thou the waters warp,
Thy sting is not so sharp
As a friend remembered not.
Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the green holly:
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly:
Then heigh-ho, the holly!
This life is most jolly.

William Shakespeare

While-reading

- Analyze the content of the poem focusing on the title
- Ponder over images and symbols used in the poem

**Post-reading**

- What is feigning?

William Shakespeare (bapt. 26 April 1564 - 23 April 1616) was an English playwright, poet, and actor, widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's greatest dramatist. He is often called England's national poet and the "Bard of Avon". His extant works, consist of some 39 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and a few other verses. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed more often than those of any other playwright. They also continue to be studied and reinterpreted.

Theme: "This poem reflects the harm and misery those closest to us can inflict. Betrayal, fake friendship and bitter realities of human relations are the major themes of the poem. Throughout the poem the speaker compares the harsh winter with the negative behavior of mankind. For him the harsh winter is less cruel than the cruelty of men.

Context: "Blow, Blow, thou winter wind" is a poem from the Shakespeare's play 'As You Like It', which is a song sung by Amiens, a lord and follower of Duke Senior in the play. In the song Amiens compares the harshness of the west wind to the ungratefulness of human beings, finding the latter to be much more kind.

This poem is an example of a type of figurative language called personification. Shakespeare reveals his true poem with the line "Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly." by looking down at man's ingratitude and the idea that humans are two-faced. At the beginning of the poem/song, Amiens speaks of the bitter cold winter wind. The wind can be unkind and blow strong but it isn't as cruel as human society.



Glossary

Given below are the difficult words from the unit. Look at their meanings and give synonyms of each in the given column. The first one is done for you. Also use these words in your own sentences.

Words	Meanings	Synonyms
warp	a twist or distortion as a result of heat or cold	
ingratitude	thanklessness, disloyalty	
thou	you in ancient English	
keen	anxious	
rude	impolite, blunt, ill-mannered	
feigning	to give a false appearance of, pretence	
folly	foolishness	

sting	bite, wound
unto	archaic term for to
bitter	harsh
green holly	green holly tree is a symbol with the sharp leaves symbolizing crown of thorns worn by Christ while berries represent his blood. Holly signifies resilience and eternal life



Reading and Critical Thinking

a) Answer the following

1. Explain as to why does the poet urge the wind to blow?
2. Comment on the mood of the poet when he says "Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the green holly." What is the significance of the Green Holly and how does it relate to the poem?
3. Give your understanding of why does the poet regard the wind's "tooth ... not so keen" and explain what does the poem suggest about the harshness of nature compared to the pain of human relationships?
4. Explain the meaning of the word 'warp' in the second stanza?
5. Speaker's tragic mood is discussed in poem. Elaborate.
6. Comment on the line "Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly:"

b) Choose the correct answer:

- i. "Because thou art not seen" To whom the poet addresses in this line?
 - a) his friend
 - b) west wind
 - c) winter wind
 - d) Easter wind
- ii. What according to the poet is most bitter truth of life?
 - a) "most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly"
 - b) benefit forgot
 - c) thy bite is not too high
 - d) thy breath is rude
- iii. What is unkind than the winter wind?
 - a) man's ingratitude
 - b) man's hatred
 - c) man's immaturity
 - d) man's unkindness



Oral Communication

Activity

- Recite the poem loudly to understand its intonation pattern. Note the expressions of the poet in this poem while reciting it. They indicate the betrayal, fake friendship and bitter realities of human life.
- Discuss the various interpretations of the poem highlighting its imagery, symbols, atmosphere and tone within groups.



Vocabulary and Grammar

Figures of Speech: The poem abounds in the usage of figures of speech. A figure of speech is an expression used to make a greater effect on your reader or listener. It is a form of expression (such as a simile or metaphor) used to convey meaning or heighten effect often by comparing or identifying one thing with another that has a meaning or connotation familiar to the reader or listener." It also gives a much clearer picture of what you are trying to convey.

Metaphor: A metaphor is a figure of speech that is used to make a comparison, but in a way different from a simile. Instead, it makes the description of an object look as if it was literally true. In other words, it can be said that a metaphor is an implied comparison *She's the man of the house!* What do you think the above sentence implies? The 'woman' is being called the 'man' to draw a parallel with the idea of taking all the responsibility and being the bread earner in the house. This was an example of a common metaphor.

Assonance: Assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds in the same line Assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds in words that are close together in a sentence or verse. For example, "His tender hair might bear his memory" (William Shakespeare).

Apostrophe: a mark ' used to indicate the omission of letters or figures, the possessive case (as in "John's book"), or the plural of letters or figures (as in 'the 1960's')." An apostrophe is a device used to call somebody or something from afar.

- It's a nice day outside. (contraction)
- The cat is dirty. Its fur is matted. (possession)
- You're not supposed to be here. (contraction)
- This is your book. (possession)
- Who's at the door? (contraction)

Alliteration: Alliteration is a literary technique derived from Latin, meaning "letters of the alphabet." It occurs when two or more words are linked that share the same first consonant sound, such as "fish fry." Some famous examples of alliteration sentences include: Peter Piper

picked a peck of pickled peppers. Alliteration is the repetition of consonant sounds in the same line in quick succession. The entire poem is rich with alliterations.

- Clary closed her cluttered clothes closet.
- Harry hurried home to watch football on TV.
- Rachel ran right until she realized she was running round and round

Consonance: Consonance is the repetition of consonant sounds in the same line. For example the sound of /z/ in 'freeze freeze thou bitter sky' and sound of /d/ in 'As friends remembered not.'

Enjambment: It is a thought in verse contained in one line and does not end at line break instead it is continued to the next line. For example:

"That dost not bite so nigh
As benefits forgot
Though thou the waters warp,
Thy sting is not so sharp
As friend remembered not."

Imagery: Imagery is used to make readers perceive things involving their five senses. For example, "Blow, blow, thou winter wind", "Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky" and "Thy sting is not so sharp." **Personification:** Personification is to give human qualities to inanimate objects. For example, "Thy tooth is not so keen", "Although thy breath be rude" and "Thou art not so unkind." **Simile:** It is a device used to compare an object or a person with something else to make the meanings clear to the readers. The cold wind is compared to human beings throughout the poem. For example,

"Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude."
"That dost not bite so nigh
As benefits forgot."

a) Punctuate the given lines.

heigh ho sing heigh ho unto the green holly
most friendship is feigning most loving mere folly

b) Use the phrasal verbs in given sentences.

look over _____

look up _____

make up _____

mix up _____

put off _____

put up _____



Writing

- Summarize the poem "Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind" building on the points discussed in written comprehension.
- Paraphrase the first and second stanza of the poem.
- Analyze the perspective of the poet as the feelings of an afflicted man.

Teacher's Point



- Help the students in understanding the concept of the poem.
- Make students to understand the use of figures of speech and their use.