

13 UNIT

The World is Too Much with Us

William Wordsworth (1770-1850)



Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this unit, the students will be able to:

- demonstrate attentive listening skills while working in groups and taking turns to speak with standard pronunciation and intonation.
- cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as give inferences drawn from the text.
- identify and use compound prepositions and prepositional phrases in writing.
- use paraphrasing skills to paraphrase a poem.

Pre-reading:

- Guess what the poem is about from its title.
- Can you briefly explain the figures of speech learnt in the earlier grades? What are their functions?
- What do you know about English literature and poetry?

The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;

While-reading

Analyze the line:

This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon

For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not. Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathèd horn.

While-reading

How does the poem justify its title?

About the poet:

William Wordsworth was as an English poet and hailed from England. His period of life is from April 7, 1770 to April 23, 1850. In 1843, he became the Poet Laureate upon the insistence of the then Prime Minister, Robert Peel. He is best known for his "Lyrical Ballads". He is one of the founders of Romanticism in English poetry. His poetry is celebrated for its profound connection with nature. His poetry continues to resonate with readers today, offering a timeless exploration of the human experience and relationship with the natural world.



Glossary:

Words

sordid
boon
howl
pagan
creed
forlorn

Meanings

immoral or dishonest
something that is very helpful and makes life easier for you, blessing
of the wind to blow hard and make a long loud noise
a person who holds religious beliefs that are not part of any of the world's main religions
a set of principles or religious beliefs
of a person appearing lonely and unhappy

Reading and Critical Thinking

Critical Reading

- It is the process of reading texts with the purpose of understanding them fully.
- Critical reading goes beyond just understanding the text. It requires analyzing and assessing the text's strengths, weaknesses, and implications.
- A critical reader can gain a deeper understanding of the text and form an established/ opinion about its content.

A. Answer the following questions:

1. How does the use of imagery contribute to the poem's overall impact?
2. Analyze the speaker's perspective in the poem.
3. How does the poet evoke a sense of nostalgia? Give the relevant lines.
4. How do you interpret the following lines?
"For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not. Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn."
5. Why has Wordsworth used exclamations and strong adjectives in the poem?
6. Name the kinds of figures of speech used in this poem.
7. What is the central idea in this poem?

Critical Thinking

Critical thinking is the practice of thinking and evaluating things according to some relevant criterion, considering significant alternatives.

Extensive Questions

1. Give the summary of this poem.
2. What is the significance of Wordsworth's references to Greek mythology, such as Proteus and Triton?
3. How does Wordsworth's choice of language enhance the poem's critique of modern society?
4. What thought is expressed by the poet in the following lines?
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;
5. Discuss Wordsworth as a poet of nature.

B. Read the following poem carefully and give its summary and central idea in your own words.

The Hollow Men

We are the hollow men
We are the stuffed men
Leaning together
Headpiece filled with straw. Alas!
Our dried voices, when
We whisper together
Are quiet and meaningless



As wind in dry grass
Or rats' feet over broken glass
In our dry cellar.
Shape without form, shade without colour,
Paralysed force, gesture without motion;
Those who have crossed
With direct eyes, to death's other Kingdom
Remember us if at all-not as lost
Violent souls, but only
As the hollow men
The stuffed men.

Thomas Stearns Eliot

- C. Read the poem, "The Hollow Men". Explain the effect created by the words and the phrases given below.**

The hollow men, the stuffed men, headpiece filled with straw, dried voices as wind in dry grass, and gesture without motion.

- D. Comment on the writer's view point (implied meaning) of the words and phrases given in D part.**
- E. Identify figurative language used in the poems given in the lesson as well as in exercise. Quote the supporting lines.**
- F. Watch the recorded, "The Necklace" (short story), any two-act play, a novel and a poem "In the Street of the Fruit Stalls" by John Stallworthy or any other arranged by your teacher. Analyze and evaluate these. (speaker's and characters' language, related elements, tone, mood, style, etc.)**

Vocabulary and Grammar

- A. Give the meaning of following words. Give their three synonyms and use in your own sentences.**

sordid, bosom, boon, outworn, creed, wreathed, suckle.

- B. Pattern of word changes.**



ACTIVITY

- Change the following verbs for different meanings or as noun and adjective: emphasise, digest, create, compensate, describe, activate, classify, vary, communicate

C. Fill in the blanks choosing the correct phrasal verb given in bracket against each sentence.

1. I have _____ the doctor for my ailing father. (called on, called for)
2. He has _____ Asad. (broken with, broken out)
3. I have now _____ my problems. (got at, got over)
4. You should _____ with your work with zeal and zest. (carry out, carry on)
5. Ali _____ his father. (take away, take after)
6. After liver operation, my mother has considerably _____. (run out, run down)

D. 1. Write 30 idiomatic expressions from the dictionary of idioms with their meaning (download on internet or take it from college library)

- 2. Read the Dictionary of English Grammar/ glossary. Find the precise meaning of the terms used in your class book and write their meaning in your notebook.**

E. Punctuate the following lines.

Smoking is injurious for health Because numerous health problems including lung cancer heart disease and respiratory ailments have to be faced by smokers nicotine an addictive substance in cigarettes makes quitting difficult it is important to raise awareness about the hazards of smoking

Oral Communication

- A. Recite the poem aloud with standard pronunciation and intonation.
- B. Recite the poem as a song.
- C. Divide the class into three groups. Teacher will recite the poem stanza-wise. The students of each group will ask different questions related to the recited stanza.
- D. Each group will speak in the class regarding the summary, and theme of this poem as well as speak about the impression the students get from this poem.
- E. Each group will analyze the feeling of the poet in the first eight lines.
- F. Two groups will discuss the positive impacts and one group will discuss the negative impacts of Industrial Revolution on mankind.

Writing Skills

- A. Recapitulate the summary and paraphrasing skills. Write the summary of each of the following as well as paraphrase the following poems or do as directed.

1. God's Attributes

God calls Himself 'Seeing' to the end that
His eye may scare you from sinning.

God calls Himself 'Hearing' to the end that
You may close your lips against foul discourse.

God calls Himself 'Knowing' to the end that
You may be afraid of Him to plot an evil.

These are not mere accidental names of God
As a negro may be called camphor;
So are these names derived from God's attributes,
And not mere vain titles of the First Cause.

(Translated by Dr. Nicholson)

A subordinate clause should not be punctuated as if it follows the principal clause.

Example: I could not go to school for two days. Because the path to school was flooded due to torrential rains (incorrect)

I could not go to school for two days because the path to school was flooded due to torrential rains (correct)

B. Summarize the text

ISLAMABAD - The Chief Traffic Officer (CPO) Safe City has issued show cause notices to officers and officials for inadequate arrangements, negligence, and carelessness in official duty, a Public Relations Officer said on Tuesday. He said that the Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Islamabad has been directed to take legal action against illegal parking, double parking, and encroachment on pedestrian walkways outside commercial centers and shopping plazas. Furthermore, he has been instructed to further improve the smooth flow of traffic, control accidents and provide the maximum possible travel facilities to citizens and take strict legal action against the drivers who violate traffic laws. He has also emphasized that law enforcement agencies should be swift against violators of traffic laws, including those riding motorcycles without helmets, driving recklessly, not wearing seat belts, using mobile phones, disregarding traffic signals, and other



For the Teacher:

- Provide different poems to the students with diverse themes like value of bravery and beauty of nature etc. (as given in the NCP 2023). Help the students to scan the texts and give the core idea in each poem.
- Explain paraphrasing to the students. Brief them about the good paraphrasing. Paraphrase the first six lines as a sample and ask the students to paraphrase the remaining lines orally in the class after their recitation.

traffic violations.

C. Summarize and give the theme of short stories, "Butterflies" by Roger Dean Kiser. "A Mild Attack of Locusts" by Doris Lessing and "Clearing in the Sky" by Jesse Stuart Download from the internet or find in your college library.

D. Summarize

Email: From a father to daughter

Subject: Wise and smart use of smartphone

My dearest daughter,

Assalam-o-Alaikum. I hope this email will find you safe and sound. Surely, you will be engrossed in your studies. Both you and I are aware of this fact that smartphones are remarkably helpful for the students in multidimensional ways. However, it is pertinent to suggest that this device should be judiciously used. Using it otherwise will be unethical. No doubts, smartphones are indispensable tools for academic research and learning, its excessive indulgence in entertainment programs can thwart your focus on studies. Remember, your primary goal is to excel in your studies. Let the smartphone be a supplementary tool for a positive limited entertainment programs.

The whole family trusts in you. We all are happy by the Grace of ALLAH (سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى).
Allah Hafiz



For the Teacher:

Help the students recap the summary and paraphrase skills. Suggest to them short stories, poems of reputed poets, sonnets, two-act plays, novelettes, fables and novels (not inconsistent with the Pakistani social culture/ adapted ones) to summarize and paraphrase the poems.