

UNIT 9

TO A SKYLARK

William Wordsworth (1770 – 1850)

Students Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the unit, students will be able to:

- answer the comprehension questions.
- use summary skills to summarize the poem.
- classify adjectives into different types.
- change and use degrees of adjectives.

Pre-reading:

- Name some of the songbirds found in Pakistan.
- What do you feel when you hear songs of cuckoo or nightingale?

Ethereal Minstrel! Pilgrim of the sky!
Dost thou despise that earth where cares abound?
Or, while the wings aspire, are heart and eye
Both with thy nest upon the dewy ground?
Thy nest which thou canst drop into at will,
Those quivering wings composed, that music still!



To the last point of vision, and beyond,
Mount, daring warbler! – that love-prompted strain
('Twixt thee and thine a never-failing bond),
Thrills not the less the bosom of the plain;
Yet might'st thou seem, proud privilege! to sing
All independent of the leafy Spring

Leave to the nightingale her shady wood;
A privacy of glorious light is thine,
Whence thou dost pour upon the world a flood
Of harmony, with instinct more divine;
Type of the wise, who soar, but never roam—
True to the kindred points of Heaven and Home!



About the Author

William Wordsworth was born at Cocker-mouth in the Lake District and educated at Hawakshed Grammar School and St. John' College, Cambridge. After leaving Cambridge he spent a year in France and was passionately in sympathy with the revolutionaries. He lost his sympathy when the revolution led to totalitarian government. He was the passionate lover of Nature.



Reading and Thinking Skills:

1. Answer the following questions.

- i) What are the characteristics of the skylark?
- ii) How is a skylark better than a nightingale?
- iii) What sort of bond do the skylark and its family have?
- iv) In which stanza the poet speaks of the skylark's love of its home?

2. Choose the correct answer.

- i) **The Skylark is**
 - (a) the lark that sings while soaring.
 - (b) a kind of beast.
 - (c) an aquatic animal.
 - (d) none of the above.
- ii) **What is the fact about the Skylark**
 - (a) it is a small bird that nests in a hole in the ground.
 - (b) a bird that makes nest in a tree.
 - (c) a bird that lays eggs in other birds nests.
 - (d) it is a mammal.
- iii) **'Ethereal' means**
 - (a) belonging to the Sky and air; insubstantial.
 - (b) belonging to oceans.
 - (c) pertain to hills.
 - (d) none of the above.
- iv) **Who is the wandering singer in the poem?**
 - (a) Cuckoo
 - (b) Eagle
 - (c) Nightingale
 - (d) Skylark

- v) In the first stanza, the poet asks the skylark whether it prefers
- (a) to soar on high or spend time in its nest.
 - (b) to soar on high.
 - (c) to spend time in its nest.
 - (d) to just fly.
- vi) The poet tells the skylark to
- (a) sing loudly.
 - (b) sing proudly.
 - (c) sing sadly.
 - (d) sing softly.
- vii) The poet compares the skylark to
- (a) a sparrow.
 - (b) a parrot.
 - (c) a kite.
 - (d) a nightingale.
- viii) The poet advises the
- (a) idealistic people of Africa
 - (b) idealistic people of the world
 - (c) idealistic people of Europe
 - (d) idealistic people of Asia
- ix) Wordsworth speaks of the skylark's love
- (a) of its home.
 - (b) of its wings.
 - (c) of its power.
 - (d) of its mountains.
- x) Poet tells that the skylark has the ability to use its song to connect
- (a) heaven and heaven.
 - (b) heaven and home.
 - (c) world and trees.
 - (d) heaven and gardens.

3. Mark the sentences as True or False.

- i) The poem is written by John Keats. (T/F)
- ii) The Skylark sings melodious songs. (T/F)
- iii) 'Aspire' means strive and rise higher. (T/F)
- iv) Skylark and nightingale are the same birds. (T/F)

- v) Skylark is known for its beautiful morning songs. (T / F)
- vi) Skylark loves its home and privilege to sing. (T / F)
- vii) Nightingale only sings at night. (T / F)
- viii) The poem is about hope. (T / F)
- ix) Skylark is an important romantic symbol for poets. (T / F)
- x) Wise people always keep their chins up. (T / F)

Critical Thinking:

- What is the main theme of the poem?

Writing Skills:

Follow four basic steps in preparing a summary.

1. Reading:

A good reading helps to understand the original text.

2. Outlining:

Outlining helps you to compose a summary. For example: Noting the author's purpose and the supporting details.

3. Checking:

By checking, necessary changes can be made at this stage.

4. Writing:

After final revision, summarize the text.

Activities:

- Write a summary of the poem “To a Skylark”.

- Paraphrase the following lines.

To the last point of vision, and beyond,
Mount, daring warbler! – that love-prompted strain
('Twixt thee and thine a never-failing bond),
Thrills not the less the bosom of the plain;
Yet might'st thou seem, proud privilege! to sing
All independent of the leafy Spring

Research Project

Collect the data from different sources and write a research report on the following topic.

- *How does 'tobacco use' affect the human body?*

Grammar:

Kinds of Adjectives

Adjectives can be divided into the following kinds.

1. Adjective of Quality:

Examples:

- Ali is a clever boy.
- Ahmed is an intelligent student.

2. Adjective of Quantity:

Examples:

- We have enough money.
- The saint gave adequate advice.

3. Adjective of Number:

Examples:

- There are many books in the shelf.
- Saima has ten rupees in her pocket.

4. Demonstrative Adjective:

Examples:

- This boy studies in class ten.
- Those plants are fresh.

5. Possessive Adjective:

Examples:

- That is his pen.
- My book is lost.

6. Distributive Adjective:

Examples:

- i) Each player was given a prize.
- ii) Every citizen must obey the traffic rules.

Activity:

Make two sentences of each kind of adjective.

Comparison of Adjectives

There are three degrees of adjective for comparison.

1. Positive Degree

Example: Ahmed is intelligent.

2. Comparative Degree

Example: Ahmed is more intelligent than Akram.

3. Superlative Degree

Example: Ahmed is the most intelligent student of the class.

Activity:

Write the missing degree of the given adjectives.

Positive degree	Comparative degree	Superlative degree
_____	better	best
intelligent	_____	_____
tall	_____	tallest
bad	_____	_____
_____	higher	highest
fast	faster	_____
brave	_____	_____
suitable	_____	_____