

# THE RAIN (POEM)

Poet William Henry Davies

Unit 5

By  
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# ABOUT THE POET

- **William Henry Davies** or **W. H. Davies** was a Welsh (belonging to Wales) poet and writer.
- One of the themes of his works is hardship of life.



# THE RAIN

## Stanza 1

- I hear leaves drinking rain;  
I hear rich leaves on top  
Giving the poor beneath  
Drop after drop;  
'Tis a sweet noise to hear  
These green leaves drinking near.

## Meanings

- i. Beneath: Down
- ii. 'Tis: it is (pronounced as TIZ)

# THE RAIN (cont..)

## Stanza 2

- And when the Sun comes out,  
After this Rain shall stop,  
A wondrous Light will fill  
Each dark, round drop;  
I hope the Sun shines bright;  
It will be a lovely sight.

## Meanings

- i. Wondrous: Bright/ Beautiful
- ii. Drop: A particle
- iii. Bright: Sharp/ Shining/ Blazing



# IMPORTANT POINTS ABOUT THE POEM- THE RAIN

- i. The poem is about beautiful natural phenomena (happening/ occurrence) of rain.
- ii. The poem shows the rain water collecting at the top of the tree and then falling on the leaves below drop by drop.
- iii. The poem has shown the two types of leaves the leaves on top of the tree and those at the bottom of the tree.
- iv. Tree symbolizes a society.
- v. Leaves of top of the tree which are rich leaves symbolize the rich people while the bottom leaves stand for the deprived segment of society.

## IMPORTANT POINTS ABOUT THE POEM- THE RAIN (CONT..)

- vi. The poem describes the rich getting the opportunities first and then pass on the opportunities to the poor.
- vii. Falling droplets produce a melodious sound. This sound is the sound of happiness that the deprived ones get when they see an opportunity to fulfil their needs.
- viii. The poem shows disparity/ difference in the lives of the poor and the blessed ones.
- ix. The poet hopes for the sun to shine bright and fill every darkest corner of the tree, meaning he wants every one in the society to get equal opportunities
- x. The poet thinks it would promote harmony in the society.



# THEME OF THE RAIN

- The rich in a society get all the opportunities first and after fulfilling their need, what remains is passed on to the less privileged class slowly- one after the other. An ideal society is one where rich and the poor get equal opportunities to benefit from.

## CENTRAL IDEA OF THE POEM- THE RAIN

- W. H. Davies' has used a symbolic meaning for natural elements in his poem. He has used metaphorical meanings of upper leaves of the tree which get the rain drops and quench their thirst first. Afterwards they pass-on the drops to the lower leaves. These metaphors mean that the rich get a golden chance first and whatever remains, trickle down to the poor.
- However, the poet is still hopeful that one day there will be equality in the society just like sunshine which spreads all over the world without difference and equally. This sunshine is alike for the rich green and poor leaves.



# FIGURES OF SPEECH USED IN THE POEM

## ALLITERATION

- i. Stanza 1: No alliteration.
- ii. Stanza 1
  - Shall and Stop /s/
  - Wonderous and Will /w/
  - Dark and Drop /d/
  - Sun and Shine /s/

## PERSONIFICATION

- i. Leaves drinking rain.
- ii. Giving the poor beneath.
- iii. Green leaves drinking

## METAPHOR

- i. Rich leaves (rich people)
- ii. Poor beneath (poor people)

# FIGURES OF SPEECH USED IN THE POEM

## IMAGERY

- Visual Imagery
  - ☐ Sun comes out, rain shall stop,  
wonderous light, each dark, round drop,  
sun shines bright, lovely sight.
- Auditory Imagery
  - ☐ I hear leaves drinking rain, I hear rich  
leaves on the top, Tis a sweet noise to  
hear.

## RHYMING SCHEME AND OXYMORON

- STANZA 1: ABCBDD
- STANZA 2: ABABDD
  - OXYMORON (using terms that cannot be used with each other e.g. plastic glass, living death)
    - A sweet noise.



# PEACE

Poet Dr. Silvia Hartmann

Unit: 08

# POEM

## Stanza 1

- The wind is now  
a roaring, smashing  
monster of destruction,  
raking all man's work  
from the valleys,  
from the vales,  
and sends them spinning,  
broken flying -

## Meanings

- i. Smashing: Hitting something forcefully to destroy.
- ii. Destruction: Destroying or demolishing
- iii. Raking: Leveling/ making smooth
- iv. Vales: Valleys



# POEM

## Stanza 2

- but all of that is  
not its core,  
its center is in truth  
eternal stillness  
bright blue skies  
and all you hear  
are gentle whispers  
far away  
and unimportant

## Meaning

- i. Core: Inner part
- ii. Eternal: Unending
- iii. Silence: Stillness/ Without noise
- iv. Whispers: Speak softly
- v. Far way: Very distant
- vi. Unimportant: Lacking value

# IMPORTANT POINTS ABOUT THE POEM

- i. Wind is shown having destructive nature.
- ii. It has been described as a monster.
- iii. The wind (monster) destroys all man made things.
- iv. The monstrous nature of the wind is not its real nature nor is the truth.
- v. The reality is the wind is harmless, peaceful and calm.
- vi. The truth about the peaceful nature is revealed on a bright shiny day when the wind blows gently as if someone is whispering.



## IMPORTANT POINTS ABOUT THE POEM

- vii. one always look at the destructive nature of the wind and forget about its gentleness/ softness.
- viii. To enjoy peace/ calmness one has to face storms and this is a reality should be accepted.

# THEME OF POEM

- Nature teaches humans lessons through various natural elements and forms. One of the elements of nature is wind. When it is in form of storm, it destroys everything. When gentle, it is cool, gives birth to new life and is enjoyable by all living beings. To enjoy peace we have to experience storms and hardships.



## CENTRAL IDEA OF THE POEM

- "Peace" is a metaphorical poem in which the poetess describes the destructive and peaceful aspects of wind. When the wind is in a fierce mood, it is a monster of destruction. Like a monster it roars and breaks things apart. The poetess says it is not its real nature. The truth is that it is usually peaceful when the sky is bright blue. It is calm and quiet like whispers coming from far away. The beautiful form of nature can fill our lives with real joy, goodness and happiness. This aspect is usually overlooked by people. The poem softens effect of wind- its evil power and encourages us to appreciate peace, love and benevolence instead of thinking about negative things. It gives us a lesson that we have to experience storms to enjoy peace.

# FIGURE OF SPEECH

## ALLITERATION

- Stanza 1:  
/s/ Sends and Spinning
- Stanza 2:  
/b/ Bright and Blue

## METAPHOR

- Monster of destruction
- Eternal stillness

## RHYMING SCHEME

- Stanza 1: ABCDEFBB
- Stanza 2: ABCDEFGHI



## FIGURE OF SPEECH (CONT..)

### IMAGERY VISUAL

- Smashing
- Monster
- Destruction
- Raking
- Man's work
- Valleys and Vales
- Spinning
- Flying
- Blue skies

### IMAGERY AUDITORY

- Roaring
- Whispers

### RHYMING WORDS

From text of the poem

- i. Smashing
- ii. Spinning
- iii. Flying

# TASK

- All slides must be read the slides carefully including important points about the poem, theme and central idea.
- Attempt the assignment.