

**Class-VIII**  
**Subject- English**  
**Chapter- The school boy**

Question 1:

Find three or four words/phrases in stanza 1 that reflect the child's happiness and joy.

ANSWER:

The phrases that reflect the child's joy and happiness are 'love to rise in a summer morn', 'birds sing on every tree', 'the skylark sings with me', and 'sweet company'.

Question 2:

In stanza 2, the mood changes. Which words/phrases reflect the changed mood?

ANSWER:

The phrases that reflect the changed mood are 'it drives all joy away' and 'spend the day in sighing and dismay'.

Question 3:

'A cruel eye outworn' (stanza 2) refers to

- (i) the classroom which is shabby/noisy.
- (ii) the lessons which are difficult/uninteresting.
- (iii) the dull/uninspiring life at school with lots of work and no play.

Mark the answer that you consider right.

ANSWER:

'A cruel eye outworn' refers to the dull/uninspiring life at school with lots of work and no play.

Question 4:

'Nor sit in learning's bower

Worn thro' with the dreary shower'

Which of the following is a close paraphrase of the lines above?

- (i) Nor can I sit in a roofless classroom when it is raining.
- (ii) Nor can I learn anything at school though teachers go on lecturing and explaining.
- (iii) Nor can I sit in the school garden for fear of getting wet in the rain.

ANSWER:

Statement (ii) Nor can I learn anything at school though teachers go on lecturing and explaining- is a close paraphrase of the given lines.

**Read the extract given below and answer the following questions.**

But to go to school in a summer morn,  
Of it drives all joy away,  
Under a cruel eye outworn,  
The little ones spend the day,  
In sighing and dismay.

1. Who is the speaker of these lines?

- (a) The school boy
- (b) The poet
- (c) The mother
- (d) The school teacher

Ans. (a) The school boy.

2. Whose plight is the boy describing?

- (a) His own plight
- (b) The plight of the school boys
- (c) The school teacher's plight
- (d) The father's plight

Ans. (b) The plight of the school boys.

3. Choose a phrase that indicates so.

- (a) Cruel eye outworn
- (b) The little ones spend the day
- (c) It drives all joy away
- (d) Sighing and dismay

Ans. (b) The little ones spend the day.

4. What kills the joy for the boy?

Ans. Going to school kills all joy for the boy.

5. Explain the meaning of the phrase, 'under a cruel eye outworn.'

Ans. The phrase, 'under a cruel eye outworn' could mean under the surveillance of someone who doesn't allow them any respite from the dull and boring lectures at school.

6. How do the little ones spend their days?

Ans. The little ones spend their days sighing and dismay.

### **Very Short Answer Type Questions**

1. Why is the speaker of the poem unhappy?

Ans. The speaker of the poem, a little boy, is unhappy because he doesn't like going to school.

2. What is the boy fond of doing?

Ans. The boy is fond of waking up on a summer morning and spending his time observing birds in the tree and admiring elements of his natural surroundings.

3. Whom does the boy try to explain his situation to?

Ans. The boy tries to explain his situation to his mother and father.

4. How does the boy spend his day at school?

Ans. The boy spends his day drooping. He does nothing but sighs in distress and dismay.

### **Short Answer Type Questions**

1. What does the poet intend to convey through this poem?

Ans. The poet offers a critique of the societal restrictions that are imposed upon the nature loving human beings. The boy longs for freedom.

But, the poet discusses how the educational system is destroying the childhood and innocence of the young children, who spend their days 'sighing in dismay' when at school.

2. Do, you think the boy is imaginative?

Ans. Yes, the boy seems to be quite imaginative. He seems to be comparing himself to caged birds, buds and plants. The same boy, however, when in school, becomes dull and tired under the pressure of boring and monotonous lectures.

3. Who could the child be fearing in stanza 4?

Ans. The child may be referring to the annoyance of the school teachers. On being dull and non-respondent, he might have to incur the wrath of the school teachers. The fear of being

under the surveillance of the teachers and being punished by them makes the child wilt further.