



CLASS X
ADDITIONAL ENGLISH
CHAPTER 2 - TO THE CUCKOO
WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

SOLUTIONS

TEXTUAL COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Q1. Where does the poet hear the Cuckoo' Song?

Ans. The poet hears the Cuckoo's Song echoing through the hills and this transports him to the golden days of his boyhood.

Q2. Why is the Cuckoo called a "new- comer"?

Ans. The Cuckoo is called a "new- comer" because the bird appears first when spring comes to the earth.

Q3. Where was the poet when he was listening to the bird?

Ans. The poet was lying on the green grass while he was listening to the bird.

Q4. What does the Cuckoo fill the valley with?

Ans. The Cuckoo fills the valley with its sweet melodious song bringing back the memory of his boyhood days.

Q5. What does the song meant to the poet?

Ans. The song remains a mystery to the poet but it brings back so many memories of the poet. It transports him to land of bliss.

Q6. What did the poet do as a boy when he heard the song of the Cuckoo?

Ans. When he heard the song of the Cuckoo, as a boy he listened to it. It enchanted his heart, so he wandered through bush, tree and sky and roamed through woods and green valley to seek it.

Q7. What does the song remind the poet of?

Ans. The song reminds the poet of the sweet golden memories of his boyhood days.



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Q8. Why does the poet say that the earth appears to be an “unsubstantial, fairy place”?

Ans. The Cuckoo’s song fills the world with joy and happiness making this substantial earth into “unsubstantial, fairy place”, a place fit for a mysterious wandering bird.

Q9. Why does the poet describe the song to be “at once far off and near”?

Ans. The poet hears the song of Cuckoo as two fold short. Sometimes it goes far off and at the other times, it comes too near. Its voice wanders from hill to hill.

Q10. Why is the Bird called “a hope”?

Ans. The poet used to desperately search for the cuckoo in every possible hunt in his boyhood days. But, till now he has not given up the hope and believes that he will succeed in locating the Cuckoo bird. That’s why the poet says that it is “a hope”.

Q11. Why is the bird called a “Wandering voice”?

Ans. The bird is called a “Wandering voice” because its voice is heard wandering from hill and hill. The poet finds the voice of the Cuckoo delightful but has never seen the bird in person.

Q12. Why does the poet called the bird “blessed”?

Ans. The poet calls the bird “blessed “because it is blessed with the quality of an angel or a fairy. Its voice fills the world with joy and happiness, making this materialistic place into a fairy place. It not only satisfies human being but also turns the earth into a homeland for a mysterious spring cuckoo.

TEXTUAL COMPOSITION QUESTIONS

Q1. In your own word write one paragraph about what the poet says in the stanzas 1 to 4 of the poem.

Ans. The poem starts with the welcoming notes of Cuckoo by the poet. He is charmed by the sweet song of the Cuckoo. He wonders whether he should call it a bird or its identity will remain as that of a wandering voice. The poet lying on the green grass, hears the song of two fold cry which echoes throughout the hills and the valley. The poet confesses how the bird’s song about the flowers and sunshine brings to the poet an imaginary tale of love and romance. Its song acts as a catalyst in bringing back sweet memories of the past. He admits that he has never seen the bird, has only heard his voice. The cuckoo remains as mystery to the poet so is its voice as it is produced by invisible bird.



Q2. Write a paraphrase of stanza 5 to 8 of the poem.

Ans. The poet hears again the same sweet melodious song of the cuckoo which he heard long ago as a school boy. Remembering his sweet past moments, the poet narrates how he used to desperately search for the cuckoo in every possible hunt, be it bushes or trees or the sky. Still now the poet has not given up hope and believes that he will succeed in locating the cuckoo bird. On hearing the same voice now, it recollects his golden childhood days. He refers this bird as a blessed one as it fills the world with joy and happiness making the materialistic earth, a fairy place, a fit place for the mysterious spring bird.

Q3. Is there any bird in Manipur which you associate with the spring? Write a paragraph on what you feel when you hear it sings.

Ans. In Manipur, at spring season many species of migratory birds return from their wintering ground. But, nowadays, they are no longer seen coming. Only Common birds like thrush, pigeon, Sparrow could be seen. But, such birds when they chirp, gives a very thrilling excitement at the same time it is funny to hear their sound. That sound sometimes makes us wonder at the mysterious creation of God. It also makes us feel that nature cannot be separated from mankind. Nature and Mankind should be the part and parcel of Life.

Q4. Do you know of any other English poem about any bird? Ask your teacher to help you find such a poem. After you find it, read the poem and find what similarities and differences there are compared to the poem.

Ans. Another English poem which tells about a bird is a poem "To the Skylark" written by the same poet William Wordsworth.

In these two poems, we find similarities and differences between the two birds 'Skylark' and 'cuckoo'.

The similarities between these two birds are:-

1. The songs of both these birds are sweet and melodious. They enchant the poet.
2. Both of them sing in glory of its supremacy over all earthly music.
3. Through these birds 'skylark' and 'Cuckoo', they give an insight feeling that mankind and nature cannot be separated.



The differences between to these two birds are:-

1. Cuckoo sings only in spring season while skylark sings all the year round.
2. Skylark is a bird that sings only in heaven while Cuckoo sings in plain.
3. While cuckoo is supposed to sing sweet, melodious, love and romance while skylark is supposed to sing god hymns.

Q5. Bring out the thoughts of Wordsworth about the cuckoo when he hears the song of the bird.

Ans. The song of the cuckoo enthralled the poet. Its voice leads him to remembrance of his boyhood period which he calls “golden times” or “visionary hours”. The poet never gets tired of looking for the bird. He would roam around in search of it into the forest and on plains. Yet, till now he has not given up which shows how truly a cuckoo means to him. He declares that he has never seen the bird in reality yet its voice enchants him. Its voice serves as a source of inspiration, magic, love and hope, making the earth we live an unsubstantial fairy place, a fit home for the mysterious cuckoo.

EXTRA QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q1. Explain with references to the context;

**A. And I can to thee yet;
 Can lie upon the plain
 And listen, till I do beget
 That golden time again**

Ans: The above extract is taken out from the poem “To the cuckoo” written by William Wordsworth. It gives an idea to the reader how the song of cuckoo takes him to his childhood memories

Here in this stanza, the poet wants to express how truly he loves and adores the bird. Even after many years since his boyhood days, he still listens to the cuckoo’s melody while lying down on the grass. On hearing the same melodious song, he recollects all his golden time of childhood with the present time. He never gets bored with the cuckoo’s voice.



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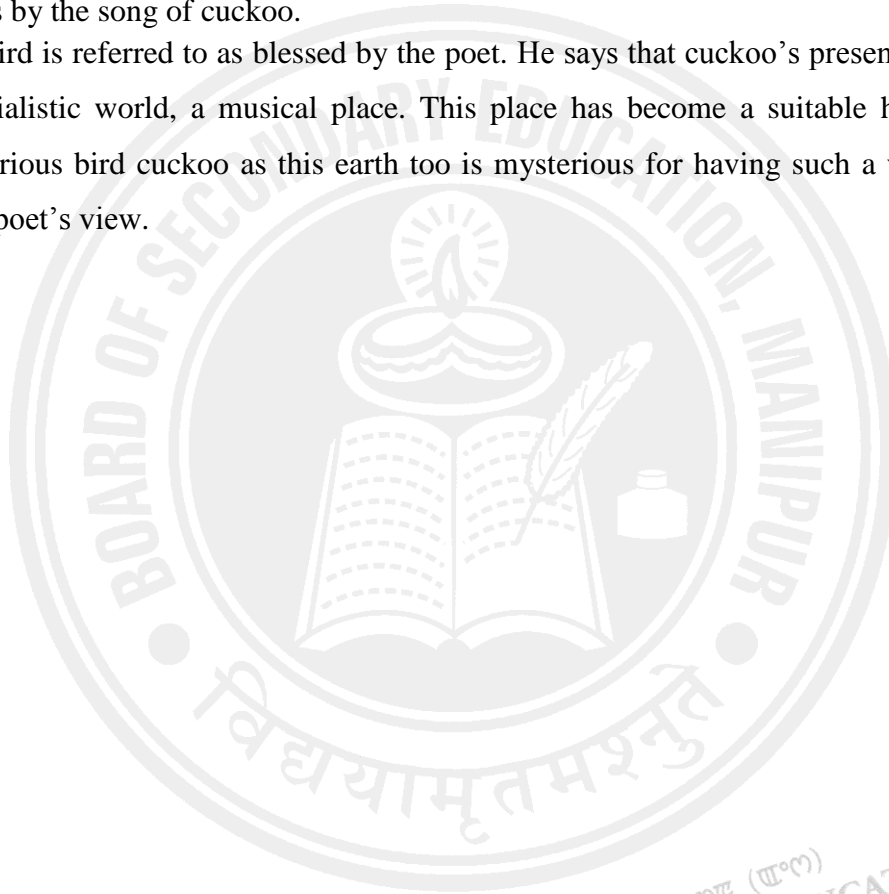
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**B. O blessed bird, the earth we pace
Again appears to be
An unsubstantial, fairy place
That is fit home for thee!**

Ans: The given extract is taken out from the poem “To the cuckoo” written by William Wordsworth. Here, the poet expresses the transformation of earth into a homeland for fairies by the song of cuckoo.

The bird is referred to as blessed by the poet. He says that cuckoo’s presence make this materialistic world, a musical place. This place has become a suitable home for the mysterious bird cuckoo as this earth too is mysterious for having such a voice hidden from poet’s view.



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