



**CLASS X**  
**ADDITIONAL ENGLISH**  
**CHAPTER 4 - THE STREAM'S SONG**  
**LASCELLES ABERCROMBIE**

**SOLUTIONS**

**EXERCISES**

**A. Textual Comprehension Questions:-**

**Q1. Say whether the following statements are true or false:-**

**a). The stream is powerful because of its song.**

Ans: True

**b). The stream sings a sad song.**

Ans:- False

**c). Nothing can obstruct the stream.**

Ans:- True

**d). Everything that sings is powerful.**

Ans:- False.

**e). Things which have no joy, cannot last for long.**

Ans:-True.

**Q2.**

**a). What happens to the rocks and boulders against the current of the stream?**

Ans:- The rocks and boulders standing firmly against the current of the stream are ultimately razed or destroyed by the power of its joyous song.



জাণৈয়াকাত থাং নক্সামত (থাম)

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)**  
Government of Manipur

**b). How does the stream clear its way?**

Ans:- The stream clears its way by the power of its joyous song. However steadfast the thwarting stones, rocks and boulders may be, the powerful song of the stream will defeat it.

**c). What is the stream's challenge to the "voiceless things"?**

Ans:- The stream's challenge to the "voiceless things" is that however steadfast and strong they may be, they will be destroyed by the power of its joyous song.

**d). "The steadfast perish"**

**The songs do not perish because**

- a) Music is eternal.
- b) Other streams will continue to sing.
- c) The power of the stream will rewind the world of the song.

(choose the appropriate answer from the alternatives.)

Ans:- (c). The power of the stream will rewind the world of the song.

**B. Textual Application Questions:**

**Q1. "Way" and "play" end in similar sounds. They rhyme in the first stanza; the first and third lines, the second and the fourth line rhyme. If one rhyme is 'a' and second 'b' then the arrangement of rhyme is *abab*.**

**Find the rhyme arrangement (scheme) of the other stanzas.**

Ans:- Lets take the first stanza:-

Make way, make way, -----1-----a

You thwarting stones, -----2-----b



मानसो ज्ञानं ददाति (मंम)  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)**  
Government of Manipur

Room for my play -----3-----a

Serious ones -----4-----b

The last words of the first and third lines i.e. **way** – **play** have the same rhyming scheme “a”. Again, the last words of the second and fourth lines i.e. stones – ones have the same rhyming scheme “b”. Therefore, the rhyming scheme of the first stanza is **abab**.

Likewise

2<sup>nd</sup> stanza :- **abab**. (1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>).

3<sup>rd</sup> stanza :- **abcb** (2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>).

4<sup>th</sup> stanza :- **abcb** (2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>).

5<sup>th</sup> stanza :- **abcb** (2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>).

6<sup>th</sup> stanza :- **abcb** (2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>).

7<sup>th</sup> stanza :- **abcb** (2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>).

8<sup>th</sup> stanza :- **abcb** (2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>).

9<sup>th</sup> stanza :- **abcb** (2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>).

**Q2. In this poem, the stream is speaking to the stones. The stream is not a living being, but it is made to behave like a person/human being. When non- living things are treated like human beings, this is known as “Personification”. Here the stream has been personified .Go through the other poems in your course and find other cases of personification.**

Ans:- In **Shakespeare’s** poem “**A Requiem**”, the poet chooses the ‘furious and rages’ to personify drastic winter conditions. Death is also personified in this poem.

Also in the poem “**Traveller’s Return**” by **Robert Southey**, he personified ‘**gales**’ as living person because it makes the traveller happy by playing around him.



মহাশিক্ষা বিভাগ (সি)  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

**Q3. In this poem, the stream itself speaks. Hence, the use of 'I', or the first person. Compare the use with 'We' in Robert Herrick's poem "To Daffodils". Is that a case of Personification.**

Ans:- In Robert Herricks's "To Daffodils" (out of syllabus), the word 'We' is used for living beings, both human beings and daffodils, and though used in the first person, it is not the case of personification.

**Q4. Other poems using 'I' are William Wordsworth's "The Daffodils", "To the Cuckoo", 'Island' by Nissim Ezekeil, Christina Rossetti's "When I am dead My dearest" and "True Love" by William Shakespeare (all out of syllabus).**

**Are these personifications?**

Ans:- As we all know that personification is a literary term in which non-living things are given human attributes. But, in all these poems inanimate objects are not personified. So, these are not personification.

**Q5. In the poem, two sets of words occur: one refers to joy and happiness; the other refers to strength and seriousness. In your exercise book, make two columns, number them 1 and 2. Under 1, write down all the words in the poem that relate to joy and happiness. Under 2, do the same for words showing strength and seriousness.**

Ans:-

1

Play, laughter, joy, song, glee, sings, delights.

2

Thwarting stones,

Shoulders, wear out, solemn, strength, cumber,

Crumble, steadfast, perish, razed.



মণিপুরৰ শাসনৰত্ন (সংস্কৃতি)

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)**

Government of Manipur

### C. Textual Composition Questions:

**Q1. Write the summary (substance) of the poem.**

Ans:- "*The Stream's song*" a poem by *Lascelles Abercrombie*, is the fearless story of a stream as it pushes up against things which are traditionally harder and stronger than it. The stream goes on its course singing joyfully. It tells the silent stones, rocks and boulders obstructing its way to make room for it. It wonders whether the rocks and boulders cannot feel or hear its happy songs or get frightened by the power of its songs. All the firm rocks and boulders will wear out in the end and surrender themselves ultimately to the stream. In the last moment of victory, the delight of the stream is found to be only a mixed blessing of it because the roaring sound of the stream's current striking against the shoulders of those rocks becomes much less than before to almost half of the original extent. What the poet wants to say is that life without hurdles is not enjoyable. He does not want an easy life because his youth and spirit and energy want to face difficulties which can be overcome gaily by him.

**Q2. Imagine you are a bird which flies around in joy. The wind, houses and trees disturb flying. Write a paragraph saying how they disturb flying and how you will not be stopped by them.**

Ans:- I love flying in an open space where there are no disturbances. But why.....? Oh! You wind, houses and trees! Why are you all standing in front of me obstructing my way. As God has given me a boon to be born as bird, I can never stop flying nevertheless you obstruct and disturb my flight in joy. As I have to reach my destination, I need to overcome all these disturbances encroach upon my domain. My flight cannot be stopped; I can fly above you, houses and trees; I can also fly against you, winds, if I choose and have faith in myself.



মণিপুরৰ শাসনৰত্ন (সংস্কৃত)  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

### EXTRA QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Q1. What does the last hour belong to according to the poet?**

Ans:- The last hour belongs to joy according to the poet.

**Q2. Why does the stream ask the boulders to thwart it for a while?**

Ans:- The stream asks the boulders to thwart it for a while as it needs their serious shoulders for laughter.

**Q3. What is the central idea of the poem “*The Stream’s Song*” by *Lancelles Abercrombie*?**

Ans:- The Central idea of the poem “*The Stream’s Song*” by *Lancelles Abercrombie* is that the joyous song of the stream is imperishable unlike rocks, stones and boulders. It can never be obstructed ultimately by such transitory forces that stand firmly in its way for a while. The idea which the poet wants to convey is that one must go on and on, in spite of the hurdles that comes in the way. If one sings out one’s faith in God than nothing can stop you and all the obstacles will be gleefully overcome.

**Q4. What does the stream tell the “*voiceless things*” or stones and why?**

Ans:- The stream tells the thwarting “*voiceless things*” not to obstruct its way of joyful songs. However hard they try to stop its course, the stream is sure and certain that they will wear out in the end and surrender themselves ultimately to the stream. The joyful songs of the stream survive and remain forever.

**Q5. How does the stream lose half the delight of its song in the end?**

Ans:- The stream loses half the delight of its song in the moment of victory. When it destroyed all the obstructing stones, rocks, and boulders; the roaring sound of the stream’s current striking against the shoulders of those rocks becomes much less than before to almost half the original extent.





মহাশিক্ষা বিভাগ (সংস্কৃত)  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

### EXPLANATIONS

- Q1. You will not forever  
Cumber my play  
With joy and a song  
I clear my way.**

Ans:- The above stanza is taken out from the poem “*The Stream’s song*” written by *Lescelles Abercrombie*. It is the fourth stanza of the poem. Here, the stream is warning those obstacles (stones, rocks and boulders) in a challenging tone that none can obstruct its way.

Here, the poet says that it is the nature of the stream to clear all obstacles in its way with joy and delightful songs. Even though the stones, rocks and boulders obstruct it on its course, its powerful joyful song will wear them out and destroy them.

- Q2. For the last hour  
To joys belongs,  
The steadfast perish  
But not the songs.**

Ans:- This is the seventh stanza of *Lescelle Abercrombie’s “The Stream’s Song”*. This stanza expresses the power of its joyous song. Its songs are eternal and cannot be destroyed.

Here, the poet describes the end struggle between the power of its joyful song and the steadfast resistance of hard stones, rocks and boulders on the other hand. The Stream is very much sure and certain that the last hour of victory belongs to itself successfully overcoming those steadfast obstacles. The stream will go on forever and its joyful songs will never perish like the hampering stones, rocks and boulders which will disintegrate and disappear gradually.