



**CLASS X**  
**ENGLISH LITERATURE READER**  
**POETRY SECTION**  
**CHAPTER 7**  
**A DAY**  
**(EMILY DICKINSON)**

**SOLUTIONS**

**EXERCISES**

**A. Answer the following questions in a sentence each.**

**(i) What looks like a ribbon?**

**Ans:-** The golden sunshine looks like a ribbon in the morning.

**(ii) “The news like squirrels ran”. What is the news about ?**

**Ans:-** The news is that the sun has risen and the whole of the earth is bathed in the sunlight.

**(iii) What are the hills compared with?**

**Ans:-** The hills are compared with the persons wearing bonnets when they become distinct with the coming of sunlight.

**(iv) What do the bobolinks do?**

**Ans:-** When the sunlight covers the earth, the bobolinks starts singing to welcome the morning time.

**(v) Does the poet know about the sunset?**

**Ans:-** No, the poet doesn't know about the sunset.

**(vi) What does ‘a dominie in grey’ symbolise?**

**Ans:-** “A dominie in grey” symbolises mourning when death comes at the doorstep.



**B. Answer the following questions briefly:**

- (i) **“I’ll tell you how the sun rose”. Why does the poet say so?**

**Ans:-** The poet says so because she is quite assure about how the day unfolds as soon as the sun begins to rise. Symbolically, the poet means to say that birth is the beginning of life as a beautiful miracle like the rising sun.

- (ii) **How do the steeples swim in amethyst?**

**Ans:-** All the atmosphere slowly metamorphose from darkness to light the sky takes the colour of amethyst. The steeple – the high pointed tower of churches seems to be swimming in the deep blue sky.

- (iii) **“The news like squirrels ran”. Explain the imagery.**

**Ans:-** When the sun rises, its rays unfurl immediately far and wide. All things in nature react to the rising sun. The image of running squirrel suggests the frantic pace that we have to contend with as soon as the day start.

- (iv) **How do the hills untie the bonnets?**

**Ans:-** The poet personified hills as a beautiful maiden. When the sun rises the mist begin to clear which gives the picture of maidens fastidiously and removing their bonnet to fully expose their beauty.

- (v) **Why do the bobolinks begin to sing?**

**Ans:-** The rising sun heralds in a new day. It is a sign of new beginnings, so the bobolinks begin to sing to cheer in anticipation of a new day.

- (vi) **‘But how he set, I know not’. Why does the poet say so?**

**Ans:-** When the sun set the earth is immersed in darkness. The line is indication of the realm of death. The other side of life , death is veiled in mystery and so the poet expressed her ignorance of this unknown entity.

- (vii) **What things are reminded to the poet, when she sees the sky during sunset?**

**Ans:-** As soon as the poet sees the sky, during sunset she envisions a stile. The cloud appears sketch of children climbing up the stile. She also seems to envision a dominie putting up the bars and guiding the children to the other



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side. This made delineation suggest the warm and comforting affection about death. It gives the assurance that God will take us in its realm when we die.

(viii) **“A dominie in grey”. What does this image mean?**

**Ans:-** A kindly affectionate comforting figure of the dominie could be the image of God. And the grey robe of the dominie could be the symbol of mourning. The dominie guiding the children firmly may suggest God accepting us in his realm when we die and give us the idea that we are secured in the God's protection.

(ix) **“Put gently up the evening bars**

**And let the flock away”. Explain.**

**Ans:-** When the sun sets the dominie putting up the evening bars gives a proposal of tranquillity. Similarly, a shepherd directing his flock of sheep home at the end of the day. In such way God will take us in his realm when our life is ended.

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