



মণিপুরৰ শিক্ষা বিভাগ (সংস্কৃত)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (S)

Government of Manipur

LESSON 10

THE SCHOOL BOY

NOTES:

ABOUT THE POET:

William Blake (28 November, 1757 – 12 August, 1827) was an English poet, painter and printmaker. Largely unrecognized during his lifetime, Blake is now considered a seminal figure in the history of the poetry and visual arts of the Romantic Age. One of his most famous works is a book called “Songs of Innocence and Experience”. His other notable works include “The Marriage of Heaven and Hell”, “The Four Zoas”, “Jerusalem”, “Milton”, etc.

SUMMARY OF THE POEM ‘THE SCHOOLBOY’

The speaker of the poem is a young school boy who loves to rise in the summer morning when birds are singing on the trees. He listens to the blows and sounds of the clarion by the hunter. But, he doesn't like to go to school during such a sweet and nice weather. He says that going to the school in the summer morning is something which takes away all his joy. He doesn't like to stay under the strict super-vision of the teachers and the school system. The child expresses his tiredness. He sits unwillingly in the sea of boredom. He sits ‘drooping’. He takes no pleasure in school work and is anxiously waiting for the end of the day.

The boy compares himself with a bird in a cage. A bird can't sing sweet songs in a trapped cage, similarly a child can never enjoy the happiness under the umbrella of fear and tension. He says that if like a flower's buds the child's freedom is snatched away and its flowers (i.e. joy) blown away and if newly grown twigs (here means newly acquired joy by the child) are removed at the time of spring (i.e. when the child has started growing up) he, like the flower plant will be left in sorrow and dismay. If a growing bud is picked and swept off in the early of its life where no one cares about it, how can it grow into a mature plant.

WORD MEANINGS:

Morn	:	<i>morning</i>
Huntsman	:	<i>hunter</i>
Winds	:	<i>blows</i>
Horn	:	<i>a musical instrument looking like a horn</i>
Outworn	:	<i>old, old-fashioned</i>
Dismay	:	<i>fear, alarm</i>
Drooping	:	<i>with the head hanging down weak and wearied</i>
Learning's bower	:	<i>shady and serious place meant for learning</i>
Dreary shower	:	<i>tired and disinterested flow of learning and knowledge</i>
Annoy	:	<i>to make angry</i>
Youthful spring	:	<i>youthful energy</i>
Nipped	:	<i>checked growth</i>
Stripped	:	<i>removed layer or layers of coverings and clothes</i>
Springing	:	<i>lively cheerful</i>
Care's	:	<i>of anxiety</i>
Mellowing	:	<i>ripening</i>
Blasts	:	<i>strong winds</i>
Anxious	:	<i>worry</i>
Tender	:	<i>soft and easy</i>