

Chapter- 8

Foreign Lands

STUDY NOTES

AT A GLANCE

In this poem of 'Foreign Lands' written by R.L.Stevenson we get a clear picture of imagination at its height. There is a small boy who has been longing to see the foreign lands. One day he climbs a cherry tree holding it tight so that he doesn't fall down in order to see abroad in foreign lands. The child sees a lot of things when he climbs up the tree which he had never seen before. He notices the beauty of nature along with many other pleasant scenes. He saw the dimpling river pass by which acted as a mirror to the sky. He also saw the busy streets full of people moving noisily in the town. He was not satisfied with whatever he saw, so he thought if I could find a taller tree than this, then I would be able to see still farther where grown-up rivers slip into the sea among the ships. He further wanted to see the roads on either hand which leads to the fairy land where all the children eat or dine together at 5 o'clock and all the things available to play are alive. It is the heartfelt wish of the small boy to witness the foreign lands.

Get Going

A) Let us find the answers from the poem.

1) Which tree did the child climb?

Ans) The child climbed a cherry tree.

2) What does the little boy see from the treetop?

Ans) The little boy sees the garden next door adorned with flowers and many more pleasant places. He also sees the dimpling river pass and the dusty roads go up and down from the treetop.

3) Why does he want to climb a taller tree?

Ans) He wants to climb a taller tree so that he can see farther, to where the grown-up river slips and the roads lean towards into the fairy land.

B. Let us read between the lines.

1) Explain these lines from the poem.

a) "I saw the dimpling river pass

And be the sky's blue looking – glass.”

Ans) In these lines, the boy says that he sees the passing river with a slight depression and he finds that the river acts like a mirror to the sky.

b) “To where the grown-up river slips
Into the sea among the ships.”

Ans) Here, the boy says that he wants to see the place where the huge river slips into the sea, among the ships.

2) Do you really think the roads go up and down?

Ans) No, the roads do not go up and down really.

3) What does the boy mean by ‘fairy land’?

Ans) According to the boy, ‘fairy land’ is an imaginary land where children have their dinner at five and the toys are found to be alive.

C. Let us go beyond the poem.

1. The little boy says he will be able to see ‘fairy land’ from a taller tree. Do you really think he will be able to see a fairy land?

Ans) No, the little boy won't be able to see ‘fairy land’ from a taller tree. ‘Fairy land’ is an imaginary land and does not exist in real life.

2) Have you ever climbed a tree? What did you see?

Ans) Yes, I have climbed a tree and I saw a bird's nest, many houses, streets, markets, automobiles, fields etc.

OR

No, I have never climbed a tree.

VOCABULARY

Identify the types of imagery used in the given sentence.

- 1) The kite flew like a bird in the sky. - VISUAL
- 2) The needle like fingers poked me hard. - TACTILE
- 3) Tio likes the smell of brewed coffee. - OLFACTORY
- 4) Manish heard cheering and shouting of audience in the cricket ground. - AUDITORY
- 5) The leaves rustled in the wind and the tree swayed gently.- AUDITORY, VISUAL

- 6) The silver rays of moon lit up the river. - VISUAL
 7) I felt a chilly shiver run through my spine as I watched the horror movie. – TACTLE, VISUAL
 8) I wanted to eat the lip-smacking and mouth-watering buttery popcorns. - GUSTATORY
 9) The rusty, broken car drove noisily through the stony pavement. – AUDITORY, VISUAL
 10) My garden is filled with bright red-coloured roses. – VISUAL

PHONICS JUNCTION

Read the story Benny and His Friends. Identify the words that have the 'air' sound and underline them.

Benny and His Friends

Benny, the bear, walked along the river bank, where the friends were playing. He reached the rosemary bushes and saw Harry, the hare, playing with two tiny bunnies. Harry introduced them as his cousins. They were a very naughty pair. They hopped about under the bushes and ran around in circles. Suddenly, Harry heard a thud and looked startled. He ran towards a nearby bush from where he heard the noise. He saw the bunnies caught in a net. They looked scared. Harry was also afraid. Benny said, 'If I can tear the net, then the bunnies will be free.' Benny tore the net and the bunnies hopped away. Benny told the bunnies to beware of danger while playing around in the forest. They all sat down under a pear tree and took a nap in the cool breeze.

GRAMMAR JUNCTION

1. Read each pair of sentences and tick the one in which the past perfect tense has been used correctly.

- a) i) My brother had lived in Mumbai before he went to Kolkata.
 ii) My brother had lived in Mumbai before he had gone to Kolkata.
- b) i) Viju had completed the exam in an hour because he had prepared well for it.
 ii) Viju had completed the exam before it was noon.
- c) i) Asif lost his pen because it fell from his pocket.
 ii) Asif lost his pen because it had fallen from his pocket.

- d) i) Shirin came home early because she invited her friends for dinner.
- ii) Shirin came home early because she had invited her friends for dinner.

2. Complete the sentences using the past perfect form of the verbs given in the brackets.

- a) Rafiq was tired because he had worked (work) all night.
- b) Varun had learned (learn) French before he moved to France.
- c) Tim was upset because his father had scolded (scold) him in front of his friends.
- d) Riddhi told her mother that she had bought (buy) the dress from the boutique.
- e) John had lost (lose) all hope of finding the dog when he saw the leash.

3. Fill in the blanks with past perfect and the simple past forms of the verbs given in the bracket.

Before she turned (turn) ten, Sonali had become (become) a scientist at the National Research Institute. She was a child prodigy. By the time she was three, she had grasped (grasp) many basic concepts in science. She had already learned to speak in five different languages by the time she was eight. Even before she passed (pass) her class five exams, she had cleared (clear) the National Science Olympiad. However, what was strange was that she had not watched (not watch) a single movie until she was sixteen.

WRITING JUNCTION

The child has to write by himself or herself.
(It is a writing based on imagination.)