

# **MCB**

## **STD-VIII**

**SUBJECT : ENGLISH**  
**CHAPTER NUMBER: 2**  
**PERIOD NUMBER : 1**  
**CHAPTER NAME :IT WAS LONG AGO**  
**BY ELEANOR FARJEON**

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**CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW**

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# EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

## GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- Recitation of the poem
- Being acquainted with poem and poet's biography
- Understanding the idea
- Appreciate the language of the poem
- Developing LSRW Skills

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES/ EXTENDED OBJECTIVES

- Recitation of the poem
- Being acquainted with poem and poet's biography
- Understanding the idea
- Appreciate the language of the poem
- Developing LSRW Skills



# INTRODUCTION TO THE POET



Family background: Known to the family as "Nellie"; She was a small timid child, who had poor eyesight and suffered from ill-health throughout her childhood; Educated at home, spending much of her time in the attic, surrounded by books; Her father encouraged her writing from the age of five; Especially close to her brother Harry and they used to play imaginative games together. This game, called T.A.R. after the initials of two of the original characters lasted into their mid-twenties. Most of her inspiration came from her childhood and from family holidays.

Born: 13 February 1881 in London, England, UK Died: 5 June 1965 (aged 84) in Hampstead, London, England Nationality: British Genres: Wrote children's literature – stories, poems etc. Awards: Carnegie Medal 1955; Hans Christian Andersen Award 1956

# THEME OF THE POEM

"It Was Long Ago" is a simple poem by Eleanor Farjeon and records the poet's earliest memory, an incident that occurred when she was around three years old. While she was walking along a dusty road, she saw an old lady sitting under a tree. The lady invited her over and gave her bilberries(similar to blueberries) and cream to eat, a 'feast' that the poet recalls with pleasure. Although it seems as if the poem has no serious theme or purpose, the last lines suggest some importance, more than just telling about her childhood. She shows that this simple, pleasant memory means much to her because, 'then I grew up, you see'. We are reminded that 'growing up' is not always so pleasant. Sadly, being an adult can sometimes dull us so that we no longer appreciate the simple pleasures of life. The poem is also a reminder to the reader that moments that had passed can only live on in memory. "Then I grew up, you see." And that is exactly what children do. With age and experience, their fresh, young eyes of innocence are replaced with adult eyes of knowledge and understanding.



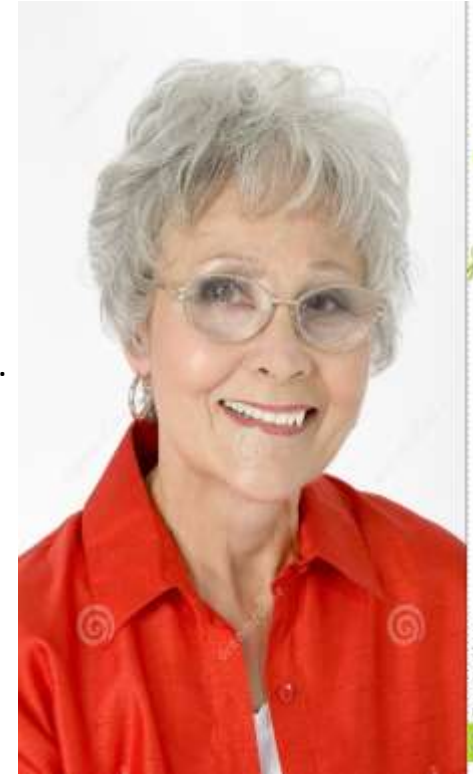
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# EXPLANATION

The poet in this poem is reminiscing her past...

All the small things in her life seem very great to her..

- She loves the dusty road, mountain, old house and recalls those memories
- She also thinks of that old woman whose appearance creates ripples in her mind.
- At that time the poet was only three...
- She also thinks of the dusty road and the love the woman gave her...



- The poet was only three years old—very small when her childhood memories still make her life refresh...
- The old lady sang softly and the cat purred.
- She served the poet berries and cream that the poet loved a lot.
- The taste of the berries, the feel of the summer still linger in his memory...
- The only sadness and melancholy is she has grown up..





# VOCABULARY

- Bilberries-a small dark blue edible fruit
- Hummed-sang softly to herself
- Purr-cat making vibrating sound while sleeping
- Farthest-at the greatest distance

Poetic devices...hummed, purr-onomatopoea

## Home Assignment:

1. Write a poem about your past.



**THANK YOU**  
**ODM EDUCATIONAL GROUP**