

SUPPLEMENTARY

STD-VIII

SUBJECT : ENGLISH
CHAPTER NUMBER: 6
PERIOD NUMBER : 1
CHAPTER NAME : THE PEACOCK
BY SUJATA BHATT

CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW

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



Born: 6 May 1956 in Ahmedabad, Nationality:
Indian Genres: Poem, Awards: Commonwealth
Poetry Prize in 1988.

Sujata Bhatt was born in Ahmedabad, Gujarat and brought up in Pune until 1968, when she immigrated to United States with her family. She has an MFA from the University of Iowa, and for a time was writer-in-residence at the University of Victoria, Canada. She received the Commonwealth Poetry Prize ([Asia](#)) and Alice Hunt Bartlett Prize for her first collection *Brunizem* in 1987.^[1] She received a Cholmondeley Award in 1991 and Italian Tratti Poetry Prize in 2000. She has translated Gujarati poetry into English for the *Penguin Anthology of Contemporary Indian Women Poets*. Combining Gujarati and English, Bhatt writes "Indian-English rather than Anglo-Indian poetry." Michael Schmidt (poet) observed that her "free verse is fast-moving, urgent with narratives, softly spoken. Bhatt lives in Bremen, Germany with her husband, the German writer Michael Augustin, and daughter.

THEME OF THE POEM

The poem '*The Peacock*' by Sujata Bhatt explains how she saw a glimpse of a bird which according to her seems like a peacock. She explains more about the beauty, appearance, and magnificence of the peacock in the first stanza. The second stanza pictures the poet waiting upon the peacock. She remembers how the elders told her to read a book while waiting for the bird. Keeping full concentration in the book, she long waits doesn't take a toll on her. As she keeps the mind away from the bird, she feels a blue shadow. At the right time, she looks up to see the peacock with all its beauty, ending the poem with a happy tone



Stanza Two

- I was told
that you have to sit in the veranda
(. . .)
- It is the tail that has to blink
For eyes that are always open.

In the second long stanza of 'The Peacock', the poet shares the idea given to him on how to wait for a peacock. The use of the first-person pronoun "I", gives a more personal touch and tone to the poem. The poet was told to sit in the veranda, reading a favorite book with great concentration, for the peacock does not appear that easy. Finally, it appears the moment one changes their focus from the peacock to the book, and "begins to live inside the book". Even now it doesn't appear in full shape but like a shadow of "blue".

In the following lines, the poem gives a few symptoms that indicates the arrival of the peacock. There are a few incidents that indicate the arrival of the peacock. As it appears, “the wind will change direction”, one could hear “the steady hum of bees” stops in the nearby bushes. And the cat which was sleeping quietly beside will wake and stretch.

As you are engrossed in reading, if feel that your attention has been disturbed, one must look up in time to see the bird. Even then it is not the full view, but the peacock gathering its tails to turn away. The peacock gathering its plumage is kind of an act for shutting those “dark glowing eyes”, which is “Violet fringed with golden amber”. The “eye” pattern in the plumage of the peacock never blinks. Therefore, the peacock gathers its feathers like a tail as an act of blinking.

POETIC DEVICES---



Personification

The 'peacock' is personified as a “man” and addressed by the poet as “He” and “His” throughout the poem. The [voice](#), the appearance, and the way it climbs down with its head turned away projects the magnificent appearance of a man who thinks highly of himself.

Hyperbole

The poet employs hyperbole in the last lines of the poem. He [exaggerates](#) the eye pattern on the tail-feathers as eyes of “amber” and “gold” as it spreads and displays its feathers, the surrounding is lighted with “golden amber”. But to the surprise of the poet, he saw the peacock gathering its tails together like a tail. Here, the poet sees the simple and natural [act](#) of the bird gathering its feathers as a volunteer or purposeful act to blink all the eyes at the same time.

Symbolism

The poem *'The Peacock'* itself is a symbolic representation of the poet's longing for her motherland. The beauty and magnitude of 'turquoise' in the peacock metaphorically symbolizes the Indian subcontinent being covered by water in three directions and mountains on the other side. She is telling how beautiful India looks. The *'Peacock's* call "coming from nowhere" represents the far cry of the Nation for its people scattered across the world. Even though the poet tries hard to see the bird, it is eluding her, like the nation that she cannot see.

Imagery

The poet, when calls the peacock as "a flash of turquoise", the mind of the reader is filled with the colorful, green, and blue image of the peacock. "A blue shadow" again in the second stanza casts a wonderful image of the peacock in its rich color. The bird is presented as a feast to the eye. Further, the bird walks down with its "slender neck arched away" and the line 'the very end of his tail' projects the glorious appearance of the bird.

VOCABULARY

- Turquoise-a kind of bluish green colour
- Pipal-a tree of banyan family
- Slender-thin
- Dart-move suddenly
- Fringed-bordered
- Amber-yellowish brown colour

Home Assignment:

1. Locate the poetic devices and images
2. 1 page handwriting

COMPREHENSION...

A.1. The 'flash of turquoise' refers to the sudden appearance of the peacock on the pipal tree. It is described so to enchant the readers with the beauty of the dancing bird appearing with the hues of colours in its wings.

2. The phrase 'To live inside the book' entails the shadow of the peacock falling on the book while the poet is reading it.

3. According to the speaker, the reader has to sit in the veranda and read of book of his choice with full concentration and then the blue shadow of the peacock will appear and he could see it.

4. The wind will change direction, the cat will get up and stretch, the hum of bees in the bushes will stop at the arrival of the peacock.

B.1. The peacock appears as a flash of lightning and its instant appearance makes the reader to have its glimpse a difficult task. However, the poet instructs the readers to read their favourite book in the veranda so that the shadow of the bird will appear slowly and at that time they can see the bird.

2.a) The dark round spots on its wings are referred to as violet, golden amber and are considered to be the eyes. The poet conveys this through the interpretation that the spots look like eyes on its feathers.

b) In the glinting sun light the dark amber spots on the peacock's wings look like twinkling eyes. They seem always open.

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