

# LITERATURE

## STD-VI

**SUBJECT : ENGLISH**  
**CHAPTER NUMBER: 5**  
**PERIOD NUMBER : 2**  
**CHAPTER NAME : I WISH**  
**BY RABINDRANATH TAGORE**

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**CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW**

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## PERIOD 2.

### EXPLANATION

Alas! Thought the pond: how still I lie.  
While all the birds can happily fly!  
And so, on wings of mist, one day,  
It became a cloud and floated away.

The pond too was delighted to become a cloud as it still  
carried its water in the cloud. And ultimately, they would not  
be stuck in a place but could fly about.  
The flower and the lamp were only day dreaming whereas the  
water realised its dream.



If I were a horse, through fields I'd gallop free,  
If I were a fish, I would swim in the sea,  
As a bird, I'd soar in the sky, so blue,  
Will one of my wishes ever come true?

The narrator wishes to be either a horse or a fish or a bird. If he were a horse he would gallop in the fields. If he were a fish he would swim in the sea and if he were a bird he would soar in the blue sky.



# SUMMARY OF THE POEM

The child-speaker in the poem imagines a flower that wanted to fly about in the sun and became a butterfly, a lamp that wanted to just fly away and became a firefly and water in a pond that envied the birds in the sky and became a cloud and drifted away. She/he wishes she/he were a horse to gallop across the distant fields, a fish to swim in the sea or a bird to fly high in the sky. But she/he wonders if even one of her/his wishes would come true.

## MESSAGE OF THE POEM

In this poem, it is the boy who wishes to fly. He imagines the flower, the lamp, and the pond as having the same desire as him because he too longs to be free and liberated like birds, fish and horse.

If the speaker works towards his goal with strength, he can make his desire for adventure a reality. With passion and enthusiasm, he can make his dreams come true.

# POETIC DEVICES

## 1. Sound patterns:

- a) **Rhyme:** Every two lines rhyme as in fun-sun; day- away...
- b) **Repetition:** day- away; fly; If I could; If I were
- c) **Alliteration:** Became a butterfly; day after day; will one of my wishes

## 2. Figures of Speech:

- a) **Personification** of flower, lamp and pond

3. **Similarity and contrast:** The flower and the lamp are similar in that they become something they are not; the flower becomes a butterfly and the lamps becomes a firefly. The pond is in contrast with the flower and lamp because it changes form to become mist and then cloud.

4. **Images through verbs of movement:** The flower, lamp and the pond fly, the speaker wishes to gallop through fields; swim in the sea; soar in the sky.

# VOCABULARY

Imagine: to form or have a mental picture or idea of something

Determined: wanting to do something very much and not allowing anyone or any difficulties to stop you

Spread: to cover or reach a wider or increasing area

Fluttered: to make a series of quick delicate movements up and down or from side to side  
Wondered

Undaunted: still determined and enthusiastic, despite problems or no success

Mist: thin fog produced by very small drops of water collecting in the air just above an area of ground or water

Floated: move easily through air

Gallop: (of a horse) to run fast so that all four feet come off the ground together in each act of forward movement, or (of a person) to ride a horse that is running in this way

soar: to rise very quickly to a high level

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