

LITERATURE

STD-VI

SUBJECT : ENGLISH
CHAPTER NUMBER: 3
PERIOD NUMBER : 1
CHAPTER NAME :NIGHT OF THE SCORPION
BY NISSIM EZEKIEL

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

Slide 2

2 @Format for content and slide heading is missing? Just like you have mentioned in DOC., We need to specify, for each slide's heading and text content, what will be the font style +amanrouniyar@odmegroup.org

Assigned to you

-Swoyan Satyendu

, 17-06-2020

INTRODUCTION TO THE POET



Nissim Ezekiel (1924 - 2004) was born in India to an Indian Jewish family. He studied in Bombay and London. He wrote eight collections of poetry and won the Akademi Award for a volume called 'Latter Day Psalms'. He was also a renowned playwright, art critic, lecturer and editor.

The Night of the Scorpion is a eight stanza poem, each stanza of which contains between three and eighteen lines. This is one of Ezekiel's first poems, it was first anthologized in Collected Poems (1952-1988)

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What is Night of the Scorpion about?

The poem is about the night when a woman (the poet's mother) in a poor village in India is stung by a scorpion. Concerned neighbours pour into her hut to offer advice and help. All sorts of cures are tried by the neighbours, her husband and the local holy man, but time proves to be the best healer- *After twenty hours / it lost its sting.'*

After her ordeal, the mother is merely thankful that the scorpion stung her and not the children.

The poem exposes the superstitions that dominate the minds of Indians and also the motherhood of a lady who just only of her children even in the worst condition. The poem has no rhyme scheme. It has eight stanzas with a different number of lines in each.

EXPLANATION OF THE 5th STANZA

- Having failed in finding the scorpion, they begin giving their own interpretation to the biting of the scorpion.
- Some of them said that his mother's sins which she committed in her previous birth (as believed in Hinduism) have been forgiven.
- The others assumed that she is going to die and said that the pain that she is suffering from will decrease the troubles in her next birth.
- Some others put forward that her good deeds will be balanced against her bad deeds because of the bite of the scorpion.

EXPLANATION OF THE 6th STANZA

- Some others said that the poison will purify and refresh her flesh of desire and her spirit of ambition.
- All of them seemed to be in peace because of their thoughts.

EXPLANATION OF THE 7th STANZA

- More and more people come with candles & lanterns.
- His mother is however crying and rolling on the mat with severe pain, but nobody cares for her except for his father who is a sceptic, rationalist.
- He leaves no stone unturned to cure her.
- He uses powder, mixture, herb and hybrid to help her recover from the pain.
- He even poured a little paraffin upon the bitten toe and then fires it up.
- The poet watches the flames of fire burning on the skin of his mother.
- He also watches the holy man perform his rites to tame the poison with an incantation.
- The phrase again refers to superstitious people of his village who believe in irrational measures to cure a person.
- His mother ultimately recovers from the poison after 24 hours.

EXPLANATION OF THE 8th STANZA

- The last line is quite emotional and heart touching. It reflects the motherhood of a lady.
- The poet says that after recovering from the poison, his mother's words were *Thank God the scorpion picked on me and spared my children.*
- Even in such condition, his mother remains more concerned about the safety and health of her children.
- The mother stands as a symbol of selfless love for her children.

VOCABULARY

Buzz: to make a continuous, low sound such as the one a bee makes

Evil one: morally bad, cruel, or very unpleasant

Giant: extremely large

Mudbaked: rectangular block of clay baked by the sun or in a kiln; used as a building or paving material

Sins: the offence of breaking, or the breaking of, a religious or moral law

Twisted: bent so that the original shape is changed

Spared: bent so that the original shape is changed

Literary Devices - Night Of The Scorpion

Alliteration - stung by a scorpion, Parting with his poison, diabolic tail in the dark, risked the rain, poison purfiy, through and through, poured a little paraffin, flame feeding.

Antonyms - previous/next, evil/good, sceptic/rationalist, curse/blessing.

Metaphor - scorpion is the Evil One.

Simile - like swarms of flies.

Onomatopoeia: Buzzed

Personification: 1) Diabolic Tail, 2) He risked the rain again

Home Assignment: Vocabulary, Page 66, one page handwriting

Activity: Recitation of the Poem

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