

CHAPTER-02

THE SCHOOLBOY

Extracts

Question-1

I love to rise in a summer morn,
When the birds sing on every tree;
The distant huntsman winds his horn,
And the skylark sings with me:

O what sweet company!

- i) What does the poet love to do in a summer morning?
- ii) Does the poet seem happy in morning?
- iii) Who do give company to the poet after he gets up in the morning?
- iv) Explain, 'sweet company'.

Question 2.

But to go to school in a summer morn,
O! it drives all joy away;
Under a cruel eye outworn,
The little ones spend the day,
In signing and dismay.

- (i) What does he dislike about school?
- (ii) Explain 'under a cruel eye outwork'?
- (iii) How does the child spend his day?
- (iv) What changes does the child aspire for?

Question 3.

Ah! then at times I drooping sit,
And spend many an anxious hour.
Nor in my book can I take delight
Nor sit in learning's bower,
Worn thro' with the dreary shower.

- (i) Why does he sit 'drooping'?
- (ii) How does he spend his school hours?

- (iii) Why couldn't he 'take delight' in his book?
- (iv) Explain 'worn thro' with the dreary shower.

Question 4.

How can the bird that is born for joy,
Sit in a cage and sing
How can a child when fears annoy,
But droop his tender wing,
And forget his youthful spring.

- (i) With whom is the child compared to?
- (ii) How does a child get angry?
- (iii) Why does a child stoop his wings?
- (iv) What are the characteristics of youth?

Question 5.

O! Father and Mother, if buds are nip'd,
And blossoms blown away,
And if the tender plants are strip'd
Of their joy in the springing day,
By sorrow and cares dismay,
How shall the summer arise in joy,
Or the summer fruits appear?

- (i) Whom is the poet addressing to?
- (ii) What is his advice to them?
- (iii) What worries the poet the most?
- (iv) How important is 'their joy' to the poet?

Answer the questions in 30 words each.

1. What makes the school boy unhappy?
2. Why does the boy compare himself to a caged bird?
3. What is the poet's advice to parents of school-going kids?
4. Why does the school boy compare himself to a plant?
5. What message does the poet want to convey through this poem?
6. What does the term 'learning's bower' refer to?
7. The boy loves to learn amidst nature. How does the poet bring it out in the poem?

Answer the questions in about 100 words.

1. What does the schoolboy love to do on a summer morn? What drives his joy away?
2. Describe the boy's experience in the school.
3. According to the poet how does formal education curb a learner's potential?
4. In the poem "The Schoolboy," do you think the poet is arguing against education? Explain.

2. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each.

- i) What was the boy's plea to his parents?
- ii) Why does the boy compare himself to a plant?
- iii) Why can't the schoolboy take delight in his books?