

CW  
27/07/21

## Get going

A) Let us find the answers from the poem.

1) Where was the scorpion hiding? Why?

The scorpion was hiding beneath a sack of rice to save itself from the rain.

2) Why did the peasants come to the speaker's house?

The peasants came to the speaker's house when they found out that the narrator's mother had been stung ~~by~~ by a scorpion.

3) ~~The~~ Who clicked their tongues? Why?

The peasants clicked their tongues to express their condolences and sympathy as they watched the narrator's mother writhing in pain.

4) Give an example of a superstition from the poem?

Superstitions are irrational beliefs held by a community based on some natural or supernatural occurrence. They are usually believed to bring good or bad luck. An instance found in the poem is the neighbour's beliefs that with every moment the scorpion makes, its poison spreads in the blood affected.

5) How will the world be benefited from the mother's suffering?

The mother's suffering will diminish all evil in this world as per the superstitious belief of the peasants.

B) Let us read between the lines

1) In what kind of a setting do you think the poem takes place? Give evidence from the poem.

It is quite evident that the poem is set in a poverty-stricken household in an underdeveloped area most probably in a remote village. The people are illiterate and are steeped in superstitions. There is no mention of any healthcare facility. Even the father, who is a rationalist, had to depend on powders, mixtures and herbs instead of taking his wife to a doctor. Moreover

the details such as mud-baked walls, lanterns and candles also portray the image of rural setting.

2) Why do you think the scorpion stung the mother just before escaping into the rain again?

The scorpion probably stung the mother as an act of self defense.

3) Explain the phrase, 'giant scorpion shadows'.

The peasants were standing in a huddle, and against the light of the candles and lantern, their shadows appeared in the shape of scorpions.