



Introduction to the poet:-

Subramania Bharati (11 December 1882 - 11 September 1921). was a Tamil writer, poet, journalist, Indian independence activist, a social reformer & a polyglot. Popularly known as "Mahakavi Bharathi" ("Great Poet Bharathi") he was a pioneer of modern Tamil poetry & is considered one of the greatest Tamil literary figures of all times. His numerous works included fiery songs kindling patriotism during the Indian Independence movement.

Theme of the poem:- In this poem, the poet has very beautifully expressed his ideas about both the constructive & destructive aspects of the wind. The wind is often satirical of weak people. Wind symbolizes the difficulties that are faced in life. When we have the endurance to bear the difficulties of life, we can overcome each challenge but, if we are weak & unstable, we succumb to the difficulties of life.

Stanza 1:-

- In the first stanza, the poet is in conversation with wind. He requests it to come softly. Further he asks the wind to not break the shutters of the windows, scatter the papers and throw down the books which are kept on the shelf.
- Next, the poet tells wind what it has done. It threw all the books down, tore the pages of the books & also brought the rain again (i.e. it brought another problem along with itself.) So, in these lines, the poet is telling how wind destroys the weak. Books are weak & hence wind threw them off the shelf & also tore their papers.

Stanza 2

- The poet says that wind is very clever as it makes fun of weaklings (those who are weak and frail). Next, the poet says that all the frail i.e. weak houses, doors, rafters, wood (trees) bodies (of animals & humans), lives (killing them) & also weak hearts are crumbled (broke) & crushed in the windows of Wind God.
- In this stanza, the poet describes who is crushed in the wind. According to him, all the weak things become victims of mighty Wind God. Note that the poet calls wind as ~~God~~ God because it is mighty & does what is desired. No one ~~can~~ can stop it from ruining weak things.

Stanza 3

- In the third stanza, the poet accepts that he (i.e.) won't do what we tell him, it will rather do what it desires. Hence we should build strong homes & joint the doors firmly. We should practise to make our body firm & strong & also make our heart steadfast (firm & strong).
- In other words, wind i.e. the problems will never go away & we cannot escape them. Hence, the poet suggests the readers to rather make themselves strong. We should have strong will power & fearlessness. We should make ourselves brave enough to face the problems.

Stanza 4

- In the last stanza, the poet says that if we make our selves & our will power strong, the <sup>wind</sup> ~~wind~~ will become our friend. In other ~~at~~ words, the problems will become our friend & will help us to grow.
- In the next line, the poet says that the wind (or the problems and challenges) blow out (destroy or fail) the weak fires (i.e. those who lack will power or courage or hope). On the other hand, it makes strong fire (those having strong will power & fearlessness) roar and flourish (i.e. successful & famous).
- In the first two lines, the poet says that the friendship of wind (challenges and problems) is good & a brave person praises him (wind which symbolizes problems) is good & a <sup>everyday</sup> brave person.

## Literary Devices

Personification - wind has been personified. When the poet says 'you are', he's referring to wind as 'you' that means he is treating wind as a person.

Repetition - 'Crumbling' is repeated many times to lay emphasis. The poet wants to say that the wind crushes every thing that is 'weak'.

That is why he repeats the word 'crumbling'.  
Alliteration: the repetition of a ~~series~~ <sup>series</sup> of similar  
In close connection 'wind cufnaws' (won't want)

Symbolism - Symbolism means that the thing refers to some other thing. The wind is a symbol. It refers to the challenger in life. He is using wind as a symbol for the Adversities in our life.

Rhyme scheme - The entire poem is written in free verse. There is no rhyme scheme in the poem.

Anaphora - When a word is repeated at the start of two or more consecutive lines, it is the device of Anaphora.  
Lines 2, 3, 4 begin with 'don't'  
Lines 6, 7, 8 begin with 'you'

## Important Points

→ Wind, come softly ..... weaklings. (first 8 lines)  
→ The poet is talking to the wind by asking him to come softly.  
→ He should not be very strong or loud but should be soft & subtle.  
→ The wind is very powerful, it is destructive, it breaks the shutters of windows & scatters the papers.

→ All the books which are kept on the self fall down

→ Here the poet says to the wind to look at the destruction that it had done

→ Whenever there is a strong wind, weaklings like small plants, tiny children, etc. get scared & even fall & get hurt

Poking fun: making fun of something  
Weaklings - A person who is weak.

Answer the following:-

Q1) What are the things the wind does in the first stanza?

The wind breaks the shutters of the window, scatters the papers, throws down the books on the shelf, tears the pages of the books & brings the rain.

Q2) What does the poet say the wind god winnows?

The poet says that the wind god winnows crumbling houses, doors, rafters, wood, bodies, lives & hearts & then crushes them all.

Q3) What should we do to make friends with the wind?

To make friends with the wind, we should build strong homes & doors. We should strengthen our bodies & make the heart steadfast.

Q5) What do the last four lines of the poem mean to you?

The last four lines give a very powerful message. They say that the wind that blows weak fibres is the same wind that makes strong fibres flourish.

This implies that the weak people are broken by forces but the people who are strong & strengthened by those forces. So, the friendship with the wind or a strong force is good. We just stay strong mentally as well as physically.

Q6) How does the poet speak to the wind - in anger with humour? You must also have seen or heard of the wind "crumbling lives". What is your response to this? Is it like the poet's?

The poet speaks to the wind with anger. He says that the wind crashes houses, doors, rafters, wood, bodies & lives. He says that it breaks the shutters of the windows & scatters the papers. But at the same time he also points out that the wind brings rain.

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He tells the readers that we must become powerful & build strong houses because the wind only damages weak things.

Yes, I too have seen the wind crumbling lives on the news channels. Winds bring massive destruction sometimes. It uproots weak ~~tree~~ trees & even claims lives of people. But as the poet says, we must try to be more powerful & build powerful structures.

Jeevan Reddy

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### The Little Girl

The Author:- Katherine Mansfield, pseudonym of Kathleen Mansfield Beauchamp, married name Kathleen Mansfield Murry, (born October 14, 1888, Wellington, New Zealand - died January 9, 1923, Gurdjieff Institute, near Fontainebleau, France), New Zealand-born English Master of the short story, who evolved a distinctive prose style with many overtones of poetry. Her ~~delicate~~ delicate stories, focused upon psychological conflicts, have an obliqueness of narration & a subtlety of observation that reveal the influence of Anton Chekhov. She, in turn had much influence on the development of the short story as a form of literature.

Theme of the story:- The main theme of the story is the relationship b/w parents & their children. Also, the writer Katherine Mansfield wishes to tell us that children share a very deep bond of love with their parents' action appears unfair. Besides, when children grow up they realize that all the acts of their parents were favourable for them. In addition, all along the parents were afraid for them & below their strictness lies a heart full of love for them. Most importantly, bond of love b/w parents & their children has been understood through a story.

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### The Macdonalds

- Kezia's neighbours were a family named Macdonalds. In all, the Mac Donalds had five children.
- Kezia would peep at them through a hole in the fence. She would see that the family had a lot of fun.
- They played a game called tag. (Tag is a children's game of watching one another like we play catch catch). So, all the children along with their father would have a lot of fun.
- Mr. Macdonald would make his little baby Mae sit on his shoulders & the two little daughters that he had they would hang on to his coat pockets.

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- Q. Why was Kezia afraid of her father?  
Kezia was afraid of her father because he was extremely strict & commanding. He never played with her. He used to give her a terrifying look over his spectacles.
- Q. Who were the people in Kezia's family?  
Kezia's family comprised her father, mother, grandmother and herself.
- Q. What was Kezia father's routine?
  - (i) Before going to his office  
Before going to office, Kezia's father would come to Kezia's room & give her a goodbye kiss.
  - (ii) After coming back from his office  
After coming back from his office, he would order his tea to be brought to the dining drawing room & would ask his mother to get his papers and slippers. He would then order Kezia to take off his boots.



On Sundays he would stretch out on the sofa with his handkerchief ~~over~~ on his face, his feet on one of the best cushions, sleep and in

Q In what ways did Kezia's grand mother encourage her to get to know her father better?  
Kezia's grand mother would encourage her to know her father better by asking her to ~~go~~ down to the drawing room & have a nice talk with her father. She also asked Kezia to stitch a pin-cushion out of a beautiful yellow silk pin & give it to her father as a birthday present.

Q Kezia efforts to please her father resulted in displeasing him very much. How did this happen?  
Kezia's ~~eff~~ stitched three sides of the pin-cushion. She was confused at what to fill the cushion with. Grand mother was not around. So, Kezia went to her parents' room to ask her mother for some scrap. But her mother wasn't there in the room.

Kezia then saw some sheets of papers on the bed table. She collected them all, tore them into small pieces & stuffed the cushion with these effects.

Her efforts to please her father resulted in displeasing him very much when at night her father searched for those sheets of paper on the bed table. The sheets of paper had the speech of Lord Authority. Her father scolded & beat her with a ruler for ~~do~~ touching things that didn't belong to her.

Q Kezia decides that there are "different kinds of father". What kind of father was Mr. Macdonald and how was he different from Kezia's father?  
Kezia decides that there are "different kinds of father's". Mr. Macdonald was a loving father. He was very gentle & forgiving. He used to play & laugh with his children. He was friendly with them. He was quite different from Kezia's father. Her father was very strict & unfriendly.

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Q) How does Kezia begin to see her father as a human being who needs her sympathy?

One day, when her mother & grandmother were at the hospital. Kezia was left at home with Alice, their cook. At night, she had a nightmare. Shivering with fear, she called for ~~her~~ <sup>her</sup> grandmother but saw her father near her bed. Her took her in his arms & carefully tucked her on his bed. He then lay down beside her. Half asleep, she went close to him, smuggled her head under his arm & held onto his shirt tightly.

She saw her father go off to sleep before her. She understood that he had to work so hard every day which made him too tired to behave like Mr. Macdonald. She told his father that he had a big heart.

Jeeben Patnash