

Question and Answer

1. The scorpion was hiding beneath a sack of rice to save itself from the rain.
2. The peasants came to the narrator's house when they found out that the narrator's mother had been stung by a scorpion.
3. The peasant clicked their tongues to express their condolences and sympathy as they watched the narrator's mother writhing in pain.
4. 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 belief that with every moment the scorpion made, its poison spreads in the blood affected.

5. The mothers suffering will diminish all evil in this world as per the superstitious beliefs of the peasants.

13.1. 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 mudbaked walls, lanterns and candles also portray the image of rural setting.

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

3. The peasants were standing in a huddle, and against the light of the candles

and lantern their shadows
appeared in the shape of
Scorpions.